

RUEIBIN CHEN Concert Pianist Mr. Rueibin Chen's distinguished career as an internationally-acclaimed pianist has earned him a reputation for technical brilliance, immense energy, and intense artistic expression. He was the opening soloist in the 2010 World Expo in China, performing the Yellow River Concerto. Critics hailed it as the best performance of the iconic piece in its history. In 2014 he performed with L.A. Philharmonic at the huge Hollywood Bowl to a sold-out audience. In 2015 he is invited to perform with Pacific Symphony at the Verizon Wireless Amphitheater in S. Cal. His masterful performances of Rachmaninoff's complete piano concertos (including the Paganini Rhapsody Op. 43) in two consecutive nights at Taiwan's National Concert Hall garnered significant critical acclaim. The performance was considered to be "the first of its kind and has left a sensational imprint in the minds of the overflowed audience." Such praise befits "one of those geniuses that come along once in twenty years." (Neue Zürcher Zeitungem) A Austrian born in Taiwan, Chen won a total of eighteen medals, including five gold medals which were won before the age of 20, in various international piano competitions in Tel Aviv (Rubinstein), Warsaw (Chopin), Salt Lake City (Bachauer), Vienna, Manresa, and Italy (Rome, Bellini, and Stresa), just to name a few. He has appeared as soloist with many orchestras around the world, including the L.A. Philharmonic, Pacific Symphony, Utah Symphony, Polish National Radio Symphony, Budapest Symphony, Prague Symphony, Czech State Philharmonic of Brno, Moscow State Symphony, Russian State Symphony, Singapore Symphony, New Philharmonia Japan, China National Symphony, Shanghai Symphony, Taiwan Philharmonic, Taipei Symphony, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, and London Chamber Players, among others. He has worked with many renowned conductors, such as Sergiu Comissiona, Antoni Wit, Pavel Kogan, Joseph Silverstein, and András Ligeti. Chen tours regularly throughout the world, performing in major concert halls such as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in NYC, Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Walt Disney Concert Hall in L.A., Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco, Jack Singer Concert Hall in Calgary (Canada), Musikverein and Konzerthaus in Vienna, Gewandhaus in Leipzig, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Opera de Monte Carlo, Warsaw Philharmonie, Bolshoi Hall in Moscow, F. Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, National Performing Arts Center (Taipei), National Center for the Performing Arts (Beijing), Shanghai Oriental Art Center, Hong Kong Cultural Center, and the Sydney Opera House. At the 2014 Beijing Int'l Film Festival attended by stars and celebrities from around the world, Chen was the only soloist invited to perform during the ceremonies. The Chinese Lunar New Year 2017 , he was honored to be invited to perform for National TV in China and the broadcast reached close to one Billion viewers. Taipei City Government 2019 New Year's Eve Countdown Concert.

<https://youtu.be/pbfV7js2pqE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZkdKvCaY8U>

Rueibin Chen captivates his audience at NCPA

**Review of the 2 sold-out Rachmaninoff recitals as the inaugural soloist the Wallis Center for Performing Arts in Beverly Hills**

**Review: Taiwanese Pianist Rueibin Chen Hands**

# Masterful Performance at The Wallis

Living Out Loud LA    March 29, 2014



Classical music is seen by many as a white European art form and its audience made up of mostly older fans. Symphony halls and other venues offering this type of music are trying their best to see how to pull in a younger and more diverse audience.

There is one ethnic group though that not only attends these concerts in large numbers but has produced many of today's most important

classical music artists and whose presence in symphony orchestra musicians may be the highest. Asian and Asian-Americans comprise the youngest demographic group attending classical concerts and many of the hot classical performers are coming from this community.

One of Taiwan's best pianists, Rueibin Chen performed two sold-out nights at The Bram Goldsmith Theater at The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills on Thursday and Friday evening.

A Chinese-Austrian born in Taiwan, Chen has a reputation for a brilliant technique and intense artistic expression as well as an expertise on the works of Russian composer, conductor and master pianist Sergei Vasilievich Rachmaninoff, whose date of death in this city of Beverly Hills coincided with Friday's performance.

Chen's selected program titled "Total Rachmaninoff" began with three of Rachmaninoff Preludes, which were written for solo piano. "Prelude in G Major Opus 32 No. 5" began with a soft, rain-like sound with multiple layers, followed by "Prelude in D Major Opus 23 No. 4," which had a fuller and stronger sound showcasing Chen's virtuosity. A more lyrical and melodic piece was "Prelude in D Major Opus 23 No. 4," which was the longest of the three.

The "Three Nocturne Opus 1" (1887), a premier for California, is regarded as the first serious attempt by the composer to write for the piano at all

14-years of age. These included “No.1 in F-sharp Minor,” “No. 2 in F Major” and “No. 3 in C Minor.” The pieces vary in tone and speed from a slow, soft, gentle sound to a full one with increase speed and complexity that Chen was able to transmit with great artistry and command.

“Lilacs Opus 21 No.” was a beautiful, contemplative melody with a more modern feel while the following piece, “Gavotte from Partita No. 3 in E Major,” was a baroque number by Johan Sebastian Bach; it was originally for lute and was transcribed by Rachmaninoff for piano. In

“Etude-Tableau in D Major Opus 39,” Chen showcased a very animated, virtuoso technique in fast pace that increased with complexity as time went on.

After the intermission, the audience was treated to several other transcribed pieces for piano by Rachmaninoff such as “Lullaby” by Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and “Minuet from L’Arlesienne” by French composer Gerge Bizet. These were followed by two intense pieces by Austrian-born violinist and composer Fritz Kreisler, a contemporary of Rachmaninoff whose “Liebesleid” (Love’s Sorrow) and “Liebesfreud” (Love’s Joy) were packed with layers of complexities and so much power that Chen’s cufflinks flew off of his wrists.

After two standing ovations, Chen finally addressed the audience in his limited English thanking them for attending the concert and The Wallis

for hosting him that evening. Not to disappoint he turned to the piano and gave a haunting version of Polish composer Frédéric Chopin's "Piano Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 35," popularly known as The Funeral March.

Fortunately, the evening's selections and compositions of Vasilievich Rachmaninoff, interpreted in the power and artistry of Chen, had all in the audience "living it up."

**Review :**

## **Rueibin Chen's "Total Rachmaninoff" piano recital Dec. 7- impressive virtuosity**

**AXS Entertainment (USA)** ,December 14, 2013



This past weekend the internationally celebrated Chinese/Austrian Pianist, Rueibin Chen, performed a solo piano recital featuring an all Rachmaninoff program, on Dec.7, 2013 at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Costa Mesa, CA.

While people familiar with Rachmaninoff's famous Piano Concertos may have found this eclectic program challenging, lovers of classical music were in for a fascinating evening of rarely performed works. Chen, who has performed with all the major orchestras of the world, gave a recital that showed the depth of his musical taste and virtuoso skills.

The impressive Segerstrom Recital Hall was a good venue for Chen's playing, despite the acoustics which sometimes caused his tones to sound blurry. Especially refreshing to see, was the attendance of so many young families with children, along with many classical music supporters from our Asian community.

Rueibin Chen has been on the stage most of his life. He began his career as a child prodigy and went on to win the most prestigious International Piano awards including the Rachmaninoff Piano Competition. With an international solo career already now decades long, he is making another world-wide tour with his new Total Rachmaninoff Recital.

Chen opened the program with Rachmaninoff's playful Lilacs, Op.21, spun out with an alluring warm tone and perfect balance between left and right hands. Without break, he went on to play a completely contrasting work, bringing out the piano's metallic tones for Rachmaninoff's brilliant arrangement of Bach's Gavotte, No. 3.

Next was a heartfelt and nuanced performance of the Southern California premiere of Three Nocturnes, Op. 1, the first works composed by Rachmaninoff when he was just 14 years old. Chen then played the astonishingly difficult Rachmaninoff Preludes - Prelude in G Major, Op 32, No.5, Prelude in G Sharp Minor, No.12 and Prelude in D Major, Op.23 No. 4. After these demanding works, Chen closed out the first half with another fabulously intricate work, the Etude-Tableau in D Major, Op. 39,

No.9, brilliantly executing complex passages with a myriad of tonal colors.

After intermission, the second half of Chen's ambitious recital presented the more familiar melodic and flashy Rachmaninoff style. Featured were arrangements by the composer of Tchaikovsky's Lullaby, Bizet's Minuet from L'Arlesienne, Fritz Kreisler's Leibeslied and Leibesfreud, along with Rachmaninoff's Daises, No. 5. In this repertoire, Chen seemed more at ease as did the audience. Concluding his recital with a thunderous Liebesfreude, a rowdy piece all fireworks and cascades of sound played at a tremendous pace, the audience responded with a very appreciative applause, calling the artist back for more.

Despite having given this demanding recital, Chen seemed visibly more relaxed and plunged into two encores from the famous Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No.2. Beaming and smiling on stage, he played with great power and flair. Responding to this encore performance, the audience gave him the thunderous applause he deserved.



## **Rueibin Chen performs 'Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini' in Beijing**

**Reported by The Central News Agency , May 3, 2015**

Chinese Austrian pianist Rueibin Chen played Sergei Rachmaninoff's "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini" with the China National Symphony Orchestra in Beijing in late April, captivating the audience with his impeccable skill and classical Russian flavor.

Chen, who was born to an elementary school music teacher's family in Tainan in 1967 and studied in Austria when he was 13, is the only Asian student of renowned Russian pianist Lazar Berman, whose teacher Alecander Goldenweiser (1875-1961) was a classmate and friend of Rachmaninoff (1873-1943).

Chen's virtuoso performance of the rhapsody magnificently conveyed charm and passion to his audience at the National Centre for the Performing Arts on April 24.

For an encore, Chen played his own condensed version of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 to the passionate applause of the audience.

The melody of the rhapsody, especially the 18th variation, was made popular by the US movie "Somewhere in Time" in 1980.

In 1984, Chen became the youngest winner of the Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition in Italy.

Chen said the rhapsody was Rachmaninoff's "most representative work" and "the piece has so many different levels you can savor -- passion, as well as serenity," according to a report on CNTV (China Network Television).

Chen said he gained a deeper understanding and grasp of the work's emotional subtlety as well as the meaning of a pure Russian performance style, from his mentor Berman and studying Rachmaninoff's life with his late teacher.

Chen said his choice of the encore was intended to echo Rachmaninoff's work, so "the whole performance is one hundred percent Russian," which is "a nod to the Russian music maestros and my mentor, Lazar Berman," the CNTV report said.

Ms. Jane Seymour, lead actress in the movie "Somewhere in Time," was in the audience when Chen played the rhapsody in Los Angeles.

## **Chen Ruei-bin Rachmaninoff tour thrills California music lovers**

**Interviewed by Taiwan News**

December 10, 2013

Chen Ruei-bin thrilled a full house of music lovers Saturday night, December 7, with his program of "Total Rachmaninoff" at Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall in Costa Mesa, California. The evening was another stop in a wide-ranging tour of Asia and other areas that Chen has undertaken in celebration of Sergei Rachmaninoff's 140th birthday on April 1 and in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of his death on March 28 this year. The Rachmaninoff tour is a follow-up to a similar series of concerts he staged from 2008 to 2010 for the 200th anniversary of Frederic Chopin's birth.

Described as having the fingers of an angel, Chen Ruei-bin has won a well-deserved worldwide reputation as a classical pianist. He was the youngest ever Rachmaninoff International Competition winner and lists as his greatest influences the composers Franz Liszt, Alexander Siloti, a Alexander Goldenweiser and Rachmaninoff as well as his teacher Lazar Berman .

Chen's repertoire for this performance included several of Rachmaninoff's most popular piano transcriptions which have been used in movie soundtracks and in commercial advertising, such as Gavotte from a Partita by J. S. Bach, Minuet from L'Arlesienne by Georges Bizet and Lullaby by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. He also demonstrated his extraordinary skill at the piano keyboard with interpretations of Rachmaninoff's famous Liebeslied and Liebesfreud and Preludes as well as the composer's three Nocturnes. Chen won another measure of recognition when he was the first Chinese to perform the three Nocturnes – written when Rachmaninoff was only 14 – in Asia. His performance Saturday also marked the debut of the three pieces in Southern California.

In 2014 Chen Ruei-bin will continue his worldwide tour with many concerts in China, performing both concertos with orchestras and solo recitals. Wherever he goes around the world, Chen is certain to attract many of his ardent fans and win over new followers to him and to classical music.

# TAIPEI TIMES

## A look at a former prodigy's career as an international concert pianist

Interviewed by Taipei Times , Apr 05, 2014



Rueibin Chen (陳瑞斌) is on a brief stop in Taiwan to see immediate family, before flying out for two sold-out recitals to open the Wallis Annenberg Center in California. He is a former prodigy with a crown-jewel job, a solo pianist who follows gigs from one continent to the next.

When I meet him, he is a bit jet-lagged. He doesn't sound like the way he plays, which the Boston Globe hails as "white-hot energy, steel-fingered, power and athletic virtuosity." Offstage, he is a plain-spoken Greater Tainan native with good manners and a slight stammer, who is

apparently without the motivation to punch up his statements and make a dazzling impression. He ends long sentences deferentially: “I don’t know the words to express it.”

The son of a public-school music teacher, Chen took up piano at five years old and learned instinctively, making his stage debut with the Taipei Symphony Orchestra at age 10. Shortly afterward, his father wanted to give him a shot at making it in Vienna.

“My father made the decision. I was 13 and couldn’t say no, I didn’t have a choice ... Once I was there, I had to finish my education, otherwise how could I find a job?” Chen says.

For the next few years, Chen studied unaccompanied at the Vienna Conservatory under a special waiver of age requirement. In between classes, the teen struggled to find rice at the supermarket and tried to learn German. He also searched for appropriate places to practice his etudes.

“When you are playing piano, you bother your neighbors,” Chen says. “I was evicted many times.”

Meanwhile, he wanted to go home.

“I was so far from Taiwan. When I was little I liked playing Rachmaninoff and Chopin, and I felt that we shared a culture,” he says.

“Rachmaninoff went from Moscow to California’s Beverly Hills, and he never went back. Even though it was so sunny and beautiful there, what he composed was depressive and deep. You could tell that this person was never very happy because he could not go back.”

### **LIFE AS A TOURING PIANIST**

These days, with at least one major engagement per month, Chen is perpetually jet lagged and often spends nights practicing while his home time zone rests.

It’s a solitary lifestyle similar to his childhood in Vienna, with the difference that he has the means to fly to Taiwan whenever he wants. He treats his career like a nine-to-five job, dedicating regular hours and creating timely programs that match the needs of audiences.

“I want to deliver good music to people,” he says. “Taiwanese audiences have a very high expectation of me, because they are familiar with my sound. They want something different each time. I want to create something different each time.”

His latest major tour marks Rachmaninoff’s 140th anniversary. It’s a popular program, and he is among the world’s best at this repertoire — in 1984, he became the youngest winner of the Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition in Italy.

But Chen's relationship with music has moved beyond his years as a prodigy. In some ways, music has become a much more private matter.

"For example, the older I get, the more I like Brahms," he says.

"Some composers have a knack for sharing, and have the ability to create communion — for instance Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky, they spark chemistry with an audience. But others don't have that quality, for instance Brahms," he says.

"For an outdoor concert for 2,000 people, you would not hear anybody performing Brahms, because he is indirect with the emotions. Yet you can hear him when you listen by yourself behind a closed door," Chen says.

He can now appreciate Vienna, in which the majority of people could not play classical music but were taught how to approach and engage with it. In Taiwan, many children like himself were taught to perform, but not to listen. Most eventually quit, he says.

"It's more fortunate to have a relationship with music throughout your life," he says.



## Pianist Rueibin Chen captivates his audience

Interviewed by China Central Television News 北京中央電視台英文新聞 , China

April 29, 2015

Taiwan-born Austrian pianist Rueibin Chen captivated his audience with a live rendition of Sergei Rachmaninoff's 'Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini' at the National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing last week.



Pianist Rueibin Chen

'Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini' is perhaps the Russian composer's most renowned piece, and Chen is among the world's best at this repertoire. In 1984, he became the youngest winner of the Rachmaninoff

International Piano Competition in Italy.

Rachmaninoff's charm and passion was replicated magnificently on the night through Chen's display of virtuoso skills, as each note and chord was thoroughly absorbed by his audience.

"For me, 'Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini' the most representative work of the composer, and people are familiar with it, especially the 18th variation. Since it inspired the music score of the movie 'Somewhere in Time'. The piece has so many different levels you can savor -- passion, as well as serenity," Chen said.

A Chinese-Austrian born in Taiwan, Chen has a reputation for brilliant technique and intense artistic expression, as well as having a certain expertise on the works of Russian composers.

He is the only Asian disciple of the legendary Russian pianist Lazar Berman, whose teacher was best friends with Rachmaninoff.

Chen said: "The encore was from Tchaikovsky, also a Russian composer, and that was to echo with Rachmaninoff's work. So the whole performance is one hundred percent Russian. It's a nod to the Russian music maestros, and my mentor, Lazar Berman."

Chen's interpretation of Chinese piano concertos is equally as impressive as that of Western classics.

He was invited as a piano soloist to the 2010 World Expo in China, performing the Yellow River Concerto.