EXPERIENCE WORLD-CLASS ARTISTRY AT
New England Conservatory

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NEC Philharmonia

Mei-Ann Chen ’95, ’98 MM, guest conductor

with
Andrew Li ’23 MM
winner, NEC Concerto Competition

Wednesday, December 14, 2022
7:30 p.m.
NEC’s Jordan Hall
PROGRAM

Anna Clyne
(b. 1980)
Masquerade (2013)

Paul Dukas
(1865–1935)
The Sorcerer’s Apprentice (1897)

Richard Strauss
(1864–1949)
Till Eulenspiegel’s Merry Pranks, op. 28 (1895)

Intermission

Piotr Ilich Tchaikovsky
(1840–1893)
Concerto for Piano No. 1 in B-flat Minor, op. 23
Allegro non troppo e molto maestoso –
   Allegro con spirito
Andantino semplice – Prestissimo – Tempo
I Allegro con fuoco – Molto meno mosso –
   Allegro vivo

Andrew Li ’23, piano
winner, NEC Concerto Competition
Clyne  

**Masquerade**

*Masquerade* draws inspiration from the original mid-18th century promenade concerts held in London’s pleasure gardens. As is true today, these concerts were a place where people from all walks of life mingled to enjoy a wide array of music. Other forms of entertainment ranged from the sedate to the salacious with acrobatics, exotic street entertainers, dancers, fireworks and masquerades. I am fascinated by the historic and sociological courtship between music and dance. Combined with costumes, masked guises and elaborate settings, masquerades created an exciting, yet controlled, sense of occasion and celebration. It is this that I wish to evoke in *Masquerade*.

The work derives its material from two melodies. For the main theme, I imagined a chorus welcoming the audience and inviting them into their imaginary world. The second theme, *Juice of Barley*, is an old English country dance melody and drinking song, which first appeared in John Playford’s 1695 edition of *The English Dancing Master*.

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Andrew Li credits his time in the Harvard University/New England Conservatory of Music joint program with substantially aiding in his development as a musician and a human being. He was exposed to music from a very early age, primarily from listening to his older brother George practice, and began piano lessons with Dorothy Shi at the age of 6. He graduated *cum laude* from Harvard with a bachelor's degree in human evolutionary biology and is currently finishing his master's in piano performance at NEC, the latter under the guidance of Wha Kyung Byun, with whom he has studied since the age of 12.

He is a winner of the Boston Symphony Orchestra Youth Concerto Competition and the Harvard Music Association Achievement Awards, as well as a prizewinner at numerous international competitions, such as the Cooper International Piano Competition, Hilton Head International Piano Competition, and Minnesota International Piano-e-Competition. He has been presented by the Foundation for Chinese Performing Arts, the Chopin Foundation of the United States, the Rockport Music Festival, the Vancouver Recital Society, and the Steinway Society - the Bay Area. Most recently, he was awarded Harvard College’s Robert Levin Prize in Musical Performance and was a Quarterfinalist and recipient of the Raymond E. Buck Jury Discretionary Award at the 2022 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

Andrew has previously performed with the Boston, Minnesota, Boston Civic, Hilton Head, Symphony Pro Musica, Glens Falls, Lexington, and NEC Youth Symphony Orchestras, and has appeared in venues such as Boston’s Symphony and Jordan Halls, Minneapolis’ Orchestra Hall, Vancouver Playhouse, Warner Concert Hall, and Shalin Liu Performance Center. He has been featured on NPR’s *From the*
Praised for her dynamic, passionate conducting style, Taiwanese American conductor Mei-Ann Chen is acclaimed for infusing orchestras with energy, enthusiasm and high-level music-making, galvanizing audiences and communities alike. Music Director of the MacArthur Award-winning Chicago Sinfonietta since 2011, Ms. Chen has been Chief Conductor of Austria’s recreation - Grosses Orchester Graz at Styriarte since fall 2021 after two seasons as the orchestra’s first-ever Principal Guest Conductor, making her the first female Asian conductor to hold this position with an Austrian orchestra. She continues as the first-ever Artistic Partner of Houston’s ROCO (River Oaks Chamber Orchestra), a post she was named to in 2019. She began her new role as Artistic Partner with Washington state’s Northwest Sinfonietta this fall. Highly regarded as a compelling communicator and an innovative leader both on and off the podium, and a sought-after guest conductor, Ms. Chen continues to expand her relationships with orchestras worldwide (over 120 orchestras to date).

Maestra Chen’s upcoming 2022-23 season engagements include – in addition to her duties with Chicago Sinfonietta 35th anniversary, Austria’s recreation - Grosses Orchester Graz at Styriarte, Texas’ ROCO, and Washington’s Northwest Sinfonietta (in her first season as Artistic Partner) – debuts with Germany’s Staatsorchester Darmstadt, Orchestra national Capitole Toulouse (her France debut), and in the US with the Rochester and Buffalo philharmonic orchestras, and the Hawaii Symphony. Return guest engagements in the United States include the American Composers Orchestra (in a program presented by Carnegie Hall featuring Mark Adama’s Last Year (NY premiere) and two world premieres: a Carnegie Hall co-commission by Yvette Janine Jackson, and one be Inti Figgis-Vizeuta), California’s Pacific Symphony, Charlotte Symphony, Santa Fe Pro Musica, and in Sweden with Norrlandsoperan.

Recent guesting highlights include England’s BBC Symphony in London, Finland’s Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Liechtenstein Symphony Orchestra, Norway’s Oslo Philharmonic and Norwegian Radio Orchestra, Het Residentie Orkest in The Netherlands, Malmö and Norrlandsoperan in Sweden, Taiwan Philharmonic, Spain’s Basque National Orchestra, Austria’s Tonkünstler-Orchester, Finland’s Tampere Filharmonia, Germany’s Musikalische Adademie des Nationaltheater-Orchestesters Mannheim, and NDR Radiophilharmonie Hanover, Sweden’s Gävle and Helsingborg Symphonies, Switzerland’s Luzerner Sinfonieorchester, Taiwan’s Kaohsiung Symphony Orchestra at Weiwuying (the world’s largest performing arts center since 2018), in addition to US return engagements with the San Francisco, Atlanta, Detroit, Pacific and Toledo symphonies.

Other North American guesting credits include appearances with symphonies of Baltimore, Cincinnati, Chicago, Houston, Indianapolis, National, Oregon, San Diego, Seattle, Toronto, Tucson, and Vancouver, to name a few. Amongst her overseas guesting credits are the symphonies of BBC Scottish; Brazil’s São Paulo (OSESP);
Denmark’s National, Aalborg, Aarhus, Odense and Copenhagen Philharmonic; Germany’s Badische Staatskapelle Karlsruhe; Mexico’s National; Norway’s Trondheim; Sweden’s Gothenburg and Norrköping; Switzerland’s Basel; and Turkey’s Bilkent in Ankara.

As Music Director of Chicago Sinfonietta, Ms. Chen has made two recordings for Cedille Records: Project W - Works by Diverse Women Composers (March 2019, nominated for GRAMMY® Award for Producer of the Year, Jim Ginsburg) and Delights and Dances (June 2013). In 2018, Innova Records released River Oaks Chamber Orchestra’s debut album ROCO: Visions Take Flight (recognized with a GRAMMY® Award for Producer of the Year, Blanton Alspaugh) featuring 5 commissioned contemporary works conducted by Ms. Chen.

Past honors include being named one of the 2015 Top 30 Influencers by Musical America; the 2012 Helen M. Thompson Award from the League of American Orchestras; Winner, the 2007 Taki Concordia Fellowship founded by Marin Alsop; and 2005 First Prize Winner of the Malko Competition (she remains as the only woman in the competition history since 1965 to have won First Prize). Ms. Chen is Conductor Laureate of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra after serving as Music Director 2010–2016, and also served as Artistic Director and Conductor for the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra Summer Festival from 2016–2021).

Born in Taiwan, Ms. Chen came to the United States to study violin in 1989 and became the first student in New England Conservatory’s history to receive master’s degrees simultaneously in both violin and conducting; she earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in conducting at the University of Michigan.
# NEC Philharmonia

Mei-Ann Chen, conductor

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<tr>
<th><strong>First Violin</strong></th>
<th><strong>Cello</strong></th>
<th><strong>English horn</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hyeon Hong</td>
<td>Claire Park</td>
<td>Sam Rockwood</td>
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<td>June Chung</td>
<td>Lexine Feng</td>
<td>Clarinet</td>
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<td>Hannah O’Brien</td>
<td>Davis You</td>
<td>Tyler J. Bourque +</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evelyn Song</td>
<td>Travis Scharer</td>
<td>Hyunwoo Chun *</td>
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<td>Jordan Hadrill</td>
<td>Adi Muralidharan</td>
<td>Aleksis Martin §</td>
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<td>Aidan Ip</td>
<td>Eva Sánchez-Vegazo</td>
<td>Erica Smith ‡</td>
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<td>Wangrui Ray Xu</td>
<td>Jiho Seo</td>
<td>E-flat Clarinet</td>
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<td>Hanks Tsai</td>
<td>Jonathan Salman</td>
<td>Hyunwoo Chun</td>
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<td>Arun Asthagiri</td>
<td>Ga-Yeon Kim</td>
<td>Bass Clarinet</td>
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<td>Yilei Yin</td>
<td>Nathan Le</td>
<td>Thomas Acey</td>
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<td>Nick Hammel</td>
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<td>Bassoon</td>
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<td>Masha Lakisova</td>
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<td>Andy Brooks *</td>
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<td>Seunghee Lee</td>
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<td>Tong Chen</td>
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<td>Eunha Kim</td>
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<td>Miranda Macias §</td>
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<td>Julien Rollins ‡</td>
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<th><strong>Second Violin</strong></th>
<th><strong>Flute</strong></th>
<th><strong>Contrabassoon</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Clayton Hancock</td>
<td>Chia-Fen Chang</td>
<td>Karlee Kamminga *</td>
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<td>Justus Ross</td>
<td>Anne Chao *</td>
<td>Xiang Li § Huimin</td>
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<td>Ian Hsu</td>
<td>Anna Kevelson §</td>
<td>Mandy Liu Hannah</td>
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<td>Yixiang Wang</td>
<td>Yechan Min + Erika</td>
<td>Messenger Tess</td>
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<td>SooBeen Lee</td>
<td>Rohrberg Dianne</td>
<td>Reagan Tasha</td>
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<td>Hyeonah Hong</td>
<td>Seo ‡</td>
<td>Schapiro ‡ Sophie</td>
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<td>Kaitlyn Knudsvig</td>
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<td>Steger +</td>
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<td>Anna Junghyun</td>
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<td>Lee Yeonsoo Kim</td>
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<td>Chloe Hong</td>
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<th><strong>Viola</strong></th>
<th><strong>Oboe</strong></th>
<th><strong>French horn</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Lydia Plaut</td>
<td>Donovan Bown §</td>
<td>Karlee Kamminga *</td>
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<td>Njord Fossnes</td>
<td>Kian Hirayama *</td>
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<td>Wonjeong Seol</td>
<td>Sojeong Kim</td>
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<td>Haoyang Shi</td>
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<td>Rituparna Mukherjee</td>
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<td>Junghyun Ahn</td>
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<td>Yi Chia Chen</td>
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<td>Asher Boorstin</td>
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<td>Jacqueline Armbruster</td>
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<td>Ruoran Yu</td>
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**Principal players**

* Clyne
+ Dukas
§ Strauss
‡ Tchaikovsky
Trumpet
Jake Baldwin +
Michael Harms ‡
Reynolds Martin *
Nelson Martinez
Jon-Michael Taylor §

Cornet
Michael Harms
Reynolds Martin

Trombone
Puyuan Chen ‡
Lukas Helsel *
Zachary Johnson +
Alex Knutrud §
Jianlin Sha

Bass Trombone
Chance Gompert ‡
Ki Yoon Park +*
Luke Sieve §

Tuba
Jimmy Curto

Timpani
Eli Geruschat *
Danial Kukuk +
Parker Olson §
Yiming Yao ¶

Percussion
Eli Geruschat
Ross Jarrell
Danial Kukuk
Pei Hsien Lu §*
Parker Olson +
Leigh Wilson
Yiming Yao

Harp
Yvonne Cox *
Shaylen Joos +

Orchestra Department
Hugh Wolff
Stanford and Norma Jean Calderwood Director of Orchestras

Marjorie Apfelbaum
Director of Large Ensemble Administration

Donald Palma
Artistic Director of Chamber Orchestra

David Loebel
Associate Director of Orchestras

Andrés Almirall
Performance Librarian

Iverson Eliopoulos
Student Manager

Alexis Martin
Student Librarian

Tasha Schapiro
Sarah Heimberg
Stage Crew

Special thanks to Jason Horowitz, Daniel Getz, Mickey Katz, Anthony D’Amico, and Eli Epstein for their work in preparing the orchestra for this evening’s concert.

And singular thanks to Conner Gray Covington who rehearsed the orchestra ahead of Ms. Chen’s arrival.
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Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall, and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited. Assistive listening devices are available for all Jordan Hall concerts; contact the head usher or house manager on duty or inquire at the Coat Room. Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.

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