



THE VANCOUVER
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PIANO VIRTUOSITY SHINES IN FREE CONCERT AT
MICHELLE'S PIANOS IN SE PORTLAND AUGUST 28**

Dr. Michael C. Liu and Young Artist Winner Fred Lu Share the Spotlight

(Vancouver, WA) Come watch the fingers fly and hear the sounds of great composers on amazing pianos to help support the Vancouver Symphony and the VSO Young Artist scholarship fund on Friday, August 28.

This second annual summer concert features “Two Piano Music” by Northwest favorites Fred Lu and Dr. Michael C. Liu together again playing on the remarkable Steinways on Friday, August 28, 2015 at 7:30 pm. Michelle’s Pianos is located at 600 SE Stark St., Portland, OR 97214.

Featured on the program will be two early works of the young Sergei Rachmaninoff including his Suite No. 1 *Fantaisie Tableaux* and his *Russian Rhapsody*. Also included will be two piano music from Franz Liszt, Frederic Chopin and Francis Poulenc.

Admission to this annual event is free and open to the public, but donations will gladly be accepted to help raise money for The VSO Young Artist Competition.

About the Artists

Now 23, Fred Lu started playing piano when he was four years old. That’s when his mother, Lihua Sun, and his father, Di Lu — a physician at PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center — bought an electric keyboard for him to try. Sun taught him a few basics and then signed him up with a piano teacher. His talent has been reinforced by the many competitions he has won. Fred was a gold-medal winner in The VSO’s 2010 Young Artists Competition, playing a movement from Rachmaninoff’s First Piano Concerto with the orchestra. His awards include winning the 2009 and 2011 MetroArts Young Artists competition, first place in the Oregon Music Teachers Association 2009 Senior Division, and taking second place in the 2008 Seattle International Piano Competition.

Dr. Michael C. Liu began playing the piano at the age of 4 and has not stopped since! He grew up near Chicago and studied piano with George Banhalmi and renowned English pianist Ian Hobson. He graduated with honors in both music and chemistry from the University of Illinois. He’s been fortunate to have performed piano concertos with several orchestras over the years including the Taipei City Symphony, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Sinfonia Orchestra of Chicago and Vancouver Symphony. Dr. Liu attended the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN for his medical school and residency training and worked in Guam for four years before coming to Vancouver. He has been a faculty/teacher for the Family Medicine Residency Program at the PeaceHealth Medical Center and piano/celesta player for The VSO since 2002, as well as a long-standing Board member. He and his wife Nien-Wei are passionate supporters of The VSO and for music in our community. They founded The VSO Chamber series in 2010.

About The VSO

For 37 seasons The VSO has been a cornerstone of Southwest Washington's arts community, providing world-renowned classical music, promoting young musicians, and opening doors to classical music for young audiences through events such as the annual In-School concerts, Young Artists Competition and various family-styled special events and performances. Many of our musicians are teachers in our school districts and beyond. The VSO provides our region with a multi-concert classical season every year and performs at Skyview Concert Hall, 1300 NW 139th Street, Vancouver. Season support for The VSO is provided by All Classical Portland and The Columbian. Additional support for the orchestra is provided by Oregon Public Broadcasting. Tickets for the VSO Chamber Series and all VSO symphony concerts are on sale now at (360) 735-7278 or www.vancouverSymphony.org.

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Fred Lu



Dr. Michael Liu