

Guest Artist



Lang Lang

Lang Lang's playing has inspired millions, whether in intimate recitals or on the grandest of stages—such as the 2014 World Cup concert in Rio with Plácido Domingo; recent Grammy Award shows, performing with Metallica and Pharrell Williams; the Opening Ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, while more than four billion people worldwide watched; the Last Night of the Proms at London's Royal Albert Hall, or the Liszt 200th birthday concert broadcast live to more than 500 cinemas around the United States and Europe. He has formed enduring musical partnerships with the world's greatest artists, from conductors Daniel Barenboim, Gustavo Dudamel, and Sir Simon Rattle to artists outside the classical music sphere—among them dubstep dancer Marquese "Nonstop" Scott, singer Julio Iglesias, and jazz titan Herbie Hancock. Lang Lang also builds cultural bridges between East and West, frequently introducing Chinese music to Western audiences, and vice versa. Yet he never forgets what first inspired and continues to inspire him: great artists, and above all the great composers—Liszt, Chopin, and others—whose music he now delights in bringing to others. Even that famous old *Tom and Jerry* cartoon, "The Cat Concerto," which introduced him, as a child, to the music of Liszt, propels him to what he calls "his second career," bringing music into the lives of children, both through his work for the United Nations and through his own Lang Lang International Music Foundation. His autobiography, *Journey of a Thousand Miles*, has been published by Random House in eleven languages. He has played sold-out concerts in all the world's major cities and is the first Chinese pianist to be engaged by the Vienna Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, and New York Philharmonic. *Time* Magazine included Lang Lang in the "Time 100," citing him as a symbol of China's youth and its future; he is

cultural ambassador for Shenzhen and Shenyang. His influence on the Chinese passion for piano has created a phenomenon *The Today Show* called “the Lang Lang effect.” For the first time, Steinway Pianos named a model after a single artist when they introduced “The Lang Lang Piano” to China, specially designed for education and now on its fifth iteration. Lang Lang mentors prodigies, convenes 100 piano students at a time in concert, and dedicated his foundation to cultivating tomorrow’s pianists, providing music education at the forefront of technology, and building a young audience. He has performed for numerous international dignitaries, including former Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, William J. Clinton, President Xi Jin-Ping and former President Hu Jin-Tao of China, President Horst Köhler of Germany, H.R.H. Prince Charles, former French President Nicolas Sarkozy, President François Hollande, Queen Beatrix and King Majesty King Willem-Alexander, and Polish President Lech Kaczyński. Of many landmark events, he was honored to perform for President Barack Obama and former President Hu Jin-Tao at a White House State Dinner, as well as at Queen Elizabeth II’s Diamond Jubilee celebratory concert at Buckingham Palace. For UN Day in 2015 he played in a concert marking the 70th anniversary of the United Nations. Also in 2015 he performed a festive outdoor concert for the 500th anniversary of the City of Havana’s founding, donating his service as a gift to the people of Havana, and became the first-ever Ambassador of the Château de Versailles in Paris. One of the world’s most prolific recording artists, he has played on several movie soundtracks and joined Sony Music Entertainment as an exclusive recording artist in 2010. His most recent releases include “New York Rhapsody,” “Lang Lang in Paris,” and “The Romance of Rachmaninov.” Lang Lang made his Boston Symphony Orchestra debut with Mendelssohn’s G minor piano concerto in August 2003 at Tanglewood, more recently appearing with the orchestra in Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 3 for his subscription series debut in February/March 2013, and in Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 1 at Tanglewood in August 2013.

