

The Rare, the New and the Beautiful

Composer Raymond Yiu invites LSO Soundhub and Panufnik Young Composers to write a new set of piano variations to celebrate Yiu's fortieth birthday

In celebration of his 40th birthday, contemporary composer Raymond Yiu will be hosting a musical party at LSO St Luke's on 6th July 2013. Although the concert may be a disappointment to those expecting an evening filled with Yiu's own music, the celebrations will include collaborations and contributions from a host of composers and musicians, adding to the party spirit. As Yiu considers the help of his fellow contemporaries fundamental to the success of his career, he is inviting artists both established and new to join in the celebrations.

Yiu cherishes his association with the London Symphony Orchestra, from his work as a Panufnik Young Composer in 2008, to his collaborative work with Lang Lang in 2009, along with his current association with the Soundhub. The concert is framed by works from Christian Mason, Edward Nesbit and Darren Bloom, who are composers from both the Panufnik Young Composers Scheme and the Soundhub.

The extensive programme for Yiu's birthday celebrations will include a set of piano variations from some of the LSO composers based on a short piano work by Yiu himself. LSO Composers Patrick Brennan, Matthew Kaner, Fung Lam, Edward Nesbit, Anjula Semmens and Toby Young have contributed towards the variations, along with Martin Butler, Richard Causton, William Cheshire, Jonathan Dove, Cheryl Frances-Hoad, Morgan Hayes, and the driving force behind both the Panufnik Young Composers Scheme and Soundhub – Colin Matthews. The piano variations will be a surprise treat for both the audience and Yiu.

The concert will also feature works by Joseph Atkins, Oliver Christophe Leith and **Odaline de la Martinez**, along with a tribute to three recently departed composers whom Yiu has high regard for: Steve Martland, Henri Dutilleux and Richard Rodney Bennett, whose unpublished songs were the inspiration for Yiu's latest composition *Ink Garden*. A host of performers will be joining in the birthday celebrations, including Mariko Asakawa-North, Emily Bloom, Max Mausen, Jonathan Chan, Felicity Hindle, Madeleine Holmes, Gavin Roberts, Julia Samojlo, Cheng Yu and many more.

Raymond Yiu's concert will not only celebrate a milestone birthday, but will also honor the support and collaborative relationships that have been pivotal to his career. Through compositions and performances from composers and musicians involved in various schemes and institutions to which Yiu is immersed in, this concert will pay the perfect tribute.

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