

Pius Cheung, Marimba Artist & Composer

"... [Pius Cheung] surmounts the contrapuntal hurdles and offers a stylish, deeply expressive interpretation [of the Goldberg Variations] notable for its clear voicing, eloquent phrasing and wide range of color and dynamics."

- **The New York Times**

"Tuneful, neo-Romantic yet technically difficult, [Pius Cheung's Études] not only showcased Mr. Cheung's mastery of his instrument but also demonstrated his considerable skill and promise as a composer in his own right – one who writes the kind of music people will want to hear."

- **The Washington Times**

"Absolutely incredible!"

- **PAS Percussive Notes Magazine**

The young Chinese-Canadian marimbist **PIUS CHEUNG** has already been recognized as a master soloist on his unusual instrument. His brilliantly played CD of Bach's Goldberg Variations elicited a feature story in The New York Times which praised not only his technical feat of performing the intricacies of this keyboard work on the marimba, but also his "deeply expressive interpretation, notable for its clear voicing, eloquent phrasing and wide range of color and dynamics." The album has been heard in the U. S. on National Public Radio and in Canada on CBC Radio. His second CD, Symphonic Poem, comprised entirely of his own compositions, was released at PASIC in November 2009.

Since his U.S. concerto debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra in 2003, Mr. Cheung has toured extensively as a concerto and recital soloist around the world. Highlights of his recent performances include concerts at the Usedomer Music Festival in Germany, Hong Kong Arts Festival, 8th International Marimba Festival in Mexico, Percussive Arts Society International Convention 2009, Terrace Theater at Kennedy Center and Zankel Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall.

In addition to concert performances, Mr. Cheung has presented masterclasses in some of the world's finest music institutions including the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, Conservatoire de Paris, Conservatoire National Supérieur de Lyon, Curtis Institute of Music, Boston Conservatory, Universities of Michigan, South Florida, Central Florida, Illinois and Boston.

As a composer, Mr. Cheung was hailed by Washington Times as "... a composer in his own right – one who writes the kind of music people will want to hear." He won 1st Prize at the Classical Marimba League's 2007 Composition Competition for his Three Etudes. Among his numerous works for the marimba are a Marimba Concerto with String Orchestra and Timpani, Symphonic Poem, and collections of sonatas, ballades, musical moments and etudes. His compositions have been recorded by renowned marimbists and chosen as repertoire for numerous national and international competitions.

Mr. Cheung moved to Vancouver with his family at the age of 12. He received his Bachelor of Music from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, his Artist Diploma from The Boston Conservatory, and his Doctorate from the University of Michigan.

Mr. Cheung is a Yamaha and Vic Firth Artist.

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Reviews & Quotes

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- *The New York Times*

"Tuneful, neo-Romantic yet technically difficult, [Pius Cheung's Études] not only showcased Mr. Cheung's mastery of his instrument but also demonstrated his considerable skill and promise as a composer in his own right – one who writes the kind of music people will want to hear."

- *The Washington Times*

"Pius Cheung is a remarkably gifted and accomplished young artist. I always enjoy listening to his elegant and virtuosic music-making."

- *Gary Graffman*

"Absolutely Incredible! Cheung adds a tasty amount of musical nuances that Bach would have likely approved of had he heard today's modern marimba."

- *PAS Percussive Notes Magazine*

"..... An excellent alternative to the usual keyboard version of this Bach masterpiece. As Charles Ives would have said, "A real ear-stretcher."

- *John Sunier, AUDIOPHILE AUDITION*

"Brilliant. Pius's Goldberg Variations recording is so warm and musical and truly engaging....His playing is extremely sensitive and appropriate for Bach..."

- *Jennifer Higdon, World-renowned Composer*

"Pius Cheung's marimba playing is brilliant and spellbinding. His intensity as a musician is riveting. His music is hauntingly romantic and emotionally rich"

- *Don Liuzzi, Principal Timpanist, Philadelphia Orchestra.*

Contact & Booking

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