



fot. Satoshi Aoyagi

17 August, Friday, 7.30 pm
The Cracow Philharmonic Hall, ul. Zwirzyńska 1

Steven Isserlis *cello*

Ya-Fei Chuang *piano*

Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685–1750)

SUITE No.3 in C major, BWV 1009

Prélude

Allemande

Courante

Sarabande

Bourrée I

Bourrée II

Gigue

Bohuslav Martinů

(1890–1959)

SONATA No. 1

Poco allegro

Lento

Allegro con brio

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Robert Schumann

(1810–1856)

FANTASIESTÜCKE Op 73

César Franck

(1822–1890)

SONATA

Allegretto moderato

Allegro

Ben moderato: Recitativo-Fantasia

Allegretto poco mosso

Acclaimed worldwide for his profound musicianship and technical mastery, British cellist **Steven Isserlis** enjoys a unique and distinguished career as a soloist, chamber musician, educator, author and broadcaster.

As a concerto soloist he appears regularly with the world's leading orchestras and conductors, including the Berlin Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra Washington, London Philharmonic and Zurich Tonhalle orchestras. He gives recitals every season in major musical centres, and plays with many of the world's foremost chamber orchestras, including the Australian, Mahler, Norwegian, Scottish, Zurich and St Paul Chamber Orchestras, as well as period-instrument ensembles such as the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. Unusually, he also directs chamber orchestras from the cello in classical programmes.

Recent and upcoming highlights include performances with the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra at the Salzburg Mozartwoche; the US premiere of Thomas Adès's *Lieux retrouvés* with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, following world and UK premieres in Lucerne and at the BBC Proms, and a further performance of the work in Amsterdam with the Britten Sinfonia, conducted by the composer; Prokofiev's *Concerto* op. 58 with the London Philharmonic Orchestra under Vladimir Jurowski, in London and at the Dresden Music Festival; and Haydn's *C major Concerto* with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment under Adam Fischer.

He is also a keen exponent of contemporary music and has premiered many new works.

As an educator Steven Isserlis gives frequent masterclasses all around the world, and since 1997 he has been Artistic Director of the International Musicians' Seminar at Prussia Cove in Cornwall, where his fellow-professors include Sir Andras Schiff, Thomas Adès and Ferenc Rados.

As a writer and broadcaster, he contributes regularly to publications including *Gramophone*, *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Guardian*, has guest edited *The Strad* magazine, and makes regular appearances on BBC Radio including on the *Today* programme, *Soul Music*, as guest presenter of two editions of *Saturday Classics*, and as writer and presenter of a documentary about the life of Robert Schumann.

His diverse interests are reflected in an extensive and award-winning discography. His recording of the complete solo cello suites by J. S. Bach for Hyperion met with the highest critical acclaim, and was Gramophone's Instrumental Album of the Year and Critics' Choice at the Classic BRITS. Other recent releases include the Elgar and Walton concertos, alongside works by Gustav and Imogen Holst, with the Philharmonia Orchestra

and Paavo Järvi; Prokofiev and Shostakovich concertos with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony, also under Paavo Järvi; Dvořák's cello concertos with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and Daniel Harding; and recital discs with Stephen Hough, Thomas Adès and (for BIS) a Grammy-nominated album of sonatas by Martinů, as well as works by Mustonen and Sibelius, with Olli Mustonen. His latest recordings include the Brahms *Double Concerto* with Joshua Bell and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, and – as director and soloist – concertos by Haydn and C. P. E. Bach, with the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen. A special First World War-inspired disc with Connie Shih was also released in 2017, including works performed on a travel cello – now known as “the Trench Cello” – played in the trenches by WWI soldier Harold Triggs.

The recipient of many awards, Steven Isserlis's honours include a CBE in recognition of his services to music, the Schumann Prize of the City of Zwickau, and the Piatigorsky Prize in the USA. He is also one of only two living cellists featured in Gramophone's Hall of Fame. In 2017, he was awarded the Glashütte Original Music Festival Award in Dresden, the Wigmore Hall Gold Medal, and the Walter Willson Cobbett Medal for Services to Chamber Music.

He gives most of his concerts on the Marquis de Corberon (Nelsova) Stradivarius of 1726, kindly loaned to him by the Royal Academy of Music.

Ya-Fei Chuang has performed in major festivals around the world, including the Beethoven Festival (Warsaw) with Christoph Eschenbach, the European Music Festival (Stuttgart), Schleswig-Holstein, Bach (Leipzig), Oulu (Finland), Shannon



(Ireland), Ravinia, Sarasota, Gilmore, Oregon, Tanglewood (USA), and at the Fromm Foundation concerts at Harvard, at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge, USA, and

in venues such as Boston's Symphony Hall, the Philharmonic halls of Berlin and Cologne, the Berlin Schauspielhaus, and the Leipzig Gewandhaus. Ya-Fei Chuang's mastery of the most challenging solo repertoire is complemented by extensive activities as a chamber musician and duo partner with Steven Isserlis, Kim Kashkashian, and Robert Levin. Her commitment to contemporary music includes world premières of works by Stanley Walden and Thomas Oboe Lee and collaborations with John Harbison.



THE KRAKÓW PHILHARMONIC finds its home in former Catholic People's Home, erected in 1928–1930 by Józef Pokutyński and Stanisław Filipkiewicz. The Philharmonic continues the musical traditions of Kraków, which assumed a more organized shape as late as 1817, when the Music Lovers' Society in Kraków was founded; it could be regarded as the predecessor of the current Philharmonic. The National Philharmonic, active since February 1945, was formally established after the end of the war. Among its directors it counts artists of such eminent stature as Jan Maklakiewicz, Walerian Bierdiajew, Piotr Perkowski or Krzysztof Penderecki.

transl. Tomasz Bieroń