

YEOL EUM SON
PIANIST

2009–2010 Biography
July 2009

At the age of twenty-three, Yeol Eum Son's highly versatile and accomplished performances earned her a silver medal at the Thirteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. Included in her prize package were three years of concert tours in the United States and a recording produced by harmonia mundi usa. Already considered among the most important artists of her generation in South Korea, she has performed there with almost every notable orchestra, and has been a featured soloist with the New York Philharmonic on several occasions, most recently as part of the orchestra's historic visit to Seoul. Ms. Son has also performed with the Israel and Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestras, the NHK Symphony and Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestras in Japan, and Germany's Baden–Baden Symphony Orchestra (Germany). She has been invited regularly to participate in numerous international music festivals, including Germany's Reingau Music Festival, Poland's Beethoven Easter and Chopin Piano Festivals, Israel's Arthur Rubinstein Festival, and the Bowdoin Music Festival in the United States. Her exhilarating performance of the Brahms Piano Quintet with the Takács Quartet during the Cliburn's Semifinal Round earned her the Steven De Groote Memorial Award for the Best Performance of Chamber Music.

Possessing the rare ability to carry a wide range of solo and orchestral works during any tour period, Ms. Son will perform at least six different concerti with ten orchestras during the 2009–2010 season, including debuts with the Columbus (Mozart K. 488); Hudson Valley Philharmonic (Saint Saens Concerto No. 2); Midland (Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue); Pacific (Rachmaninoff Variations on a Theme by Paganini); Springfield, Missouri (Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 3); and Utah Symphony Orchestras (Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 3). Additional highlights of her first season as a Cliburn medalist include recitals in Burlington, Louisville, Portland, and San Antonio, and engagements with the Albers Trio in Corpus Christi, Santa Fe, and New York.

Ms. Son was the recipient of many international awards prior to her success at the Cliburn Competition, including third prize at the 2005 Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition in Israel, and first prizes at Italy's 2002 Viotti International Music Competition and the 2000 Ettlingen International Piano Competition in Germany. In 2007, Ms. Son was invited to play at the welcoming concert for the new secretary-general of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, at the U.N. General Assembly Hall in New York City.

In October 2004, Universal Music released Ms. Son's debut CD, featuring the complete Chopin Etudes. Her Cliburn Competition CD, which includes prizewinning performances of the Barber Sonata for Piano, Op. 26 and Debussy Preludes Book I, will be released by harmonia mundi usa in the fall of 2009. Her complete competition performances are available for streaming at www.cliburn.tv.

Fluent in both Korean and English, Yeol Eum Son holds a degree from the Korean National University of the Arts, where she studied with Dae Jin Kim. She is currently studying with Arie Vardi at the Hochschule für Musik und Theatre in Hannover, Germany. Ms. Son is a passionate basketball fan and keeps up with her hometown team in Wonju in the Kangwon Province.

For additional promotional materials, please contact Lnovak@cliburn.org.