

DI WU

Finalist

Thirteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition

“... a program full of charisma, steely technique, and keen musical intelligence. Emotional peaks were thrillingly (and frighteningly) escalated through the use of sonority and tempo, suggesting no limits to the music's extremes and no predicting where it would lead. It's about as eventful as an etude can be, and, thanks to Wu's knockout performance, you could get a lot out of the music from a single hearing.”

-David Patrick Stearns, *Philadelphia Inquirer*

“[Wu is a] most mature and sensitive pianist. Intensely choreographic in conception, these Ravel works were turned into miniballets by Ms. Wu, who combined assured, contained strength with high drama.”

-Benjamin Ivry, *The Wall Street Journal*

“What really moved me is that Wu is far more than a mere hotshot contest winner. She has fierce concentration and is intent on penetrating into the music's innermost spiritual core.”

-Harris Goldsmith, *American Record Guide*

“She showed that she was born to be a performer. Right from the beginning, Wu, with her radiantly sunny personality, created a delightful connection with the audience... She played with élan and virtuosity that was mesmerizing.”

-*Peninsula Reviews*

“She made the piano whisper for the florid arpeggios and scales with which Saint-Saens surrounds his themes, and made it howl when the finale's great chorale theme burst forth. Quiet spots were focused and sensitive, and as for the hard spots - and this concerto has plenty of them - no tempo seemed too fast for her. Every phrase had direction and musicality. [Wu] showed off her command of ethereal, delicate textures.

-Mark Arnest, *The Colorado Springs Gazette*

“They say that it takes 10,000 hours to become expert at anything. By my reckoning [Wu] has practiced nearly 40,000. Her extraordinary expertise in a fascinating program of Debussy, Ravel and Liszt was evident. But technique alone does not a pianist make: It also takes perceptiveness, presence and the ability to communicate. Wu has it all.

Her tempi are fast, her dynamic range enormous, her sensitivity astonishing, her abandon infectious.

Wu captured the moods, drama, and intensity with almost casual brilliance, yet penetrating insight, her hands a blur, the video projection of the keyboard seemingly unable to keep up with the superhuman fingerwork.”

-Charles Atthill, *Prospector*

“Her account of Brahms is amazing. She takes all the difficult options (her octave glissandos are unbelievable!), and she conjures from the piano absolutely gossamer, violinistic textures, joyous humor, and brilliant airborne tempos.”

-*Musical America Online*

“She found the emotional center of each piece and wove them together in such a way that they formed a rich, musical tapestry.”

- James Bash, *Oregon Music News*

“Her control of the softness or climactic almost pounding and their application of the appropriate touch and volume seemed to be absolute and the news gets better: She knows how to use her technique in the service of the music... Di Wu has both the technical ability and musical vision to become one of the leading pianists of her generation.”

-Dan Wolfe, *Times-Sentinel*

“Her competition performances displayed a crisp, clean technique, great sensitivity in lyrical passages and quite a bit of razzle-dazzle when that was called for. Friday night’s ‘Emperor’ showed off the same characteristics. There was drama in the opening movement, wit in the finale, and gorgeous playing in the slow movement.”

-Olin Chism, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

"A superbly equipped pianist, and one with flair."

- Scott Cantrell, *Dallas Morning News*

“...the young Di Wu [was] an engaging soloist”

-*The New York Times*