

## NORTH SHORE CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

# nstage/offstage



In-Person and by livestream from Chicago!

**OCT 30 Alessio Bax & Lucille Chung Piano Duo**

**NOV 27 Philippe Quint Piazzolla Centennial**

**DEC 5 Ilya Kaler Master's Workshop**

[www.nscmf.org](http://www.nscmf.org)

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north shore chamber music festival

THE MUSIC MAKERS

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## 2021 FALL SEASON

Sponsored by The Alphadyne Foundation



pianoforte chicago

1335 S Michigan Avenue – Downtown Chicago, IL

# LA VALSE!

ALESSIO BAX, piano  
LUCILLE CHUNG, piano

Saturday, October 30, 2021

This performance will livestream on [www.nscmf.org](http://www.nscmf.org) and is presented without an intermission. The broadcast is produced with special thanks to PianoForte Chicago.

## Petite Suite for piano four hands

- I. En bateau
- II. Cortège
- III. Menuet
- IV. Ballet

**Claude Debussy**  
(1862-1918)

## En blanc et noir for two pianos

- I. Avec emportement
- II. Lent-Sombre
- III. Scherzando

## Sonata for piano four hands

- I. Prelude
- II. Rustique
- III. Final

**Francis Poulenc**  
(1899-1963)

## Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune for piano four hands (arr. Maurice Ravel)

**Claude Debussy**  
(1862-1918)

## La Valse for two pianos

**Maurice Ravel**  
(1875-1937)

## Alessio Bax and Lucille Chung, piano



The real-life marriage of concert pianists Alessio Bax and Lucille Chung, with their abundant artistic chemistry, passion, and stunning virtuosity, has led to one of

the most appealing and impressive piano duos of our time. In the words of the UK magazine *Music and Arts*, "Theirs is a marriage of wondrous colours and dextrous aplomb, subtly balanced to make a musical performance sound as one."

Alessio Bax is praised for creating "a ravishing listening experience" with his lyrical playing, insightful interpretations, and dazzling facility. First Prize winner at the Leeds and Hamamatsu international piano competitions, a 2009 Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient, and a winner of Lincoln Center's Emerging Artist Award, he has appeared as soloist with more than 130 orchestras, including London Symphony, Royal Philharmonic, Dallas and Houston Symphonies, NHK Symphony in Japan, St. Petersburg Philharmonic with Yuri Temirkanov, and the City of Birmingham Symphony with Sir Simon Rattle. His much-lauded discography includes *Italian Inspirations*, an eclectic recital inspired by his native country, *Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5*, an album of Russian favorites by Scriabin and Mussorgsky, *Mozart Piano Concertos K. 491 and K. 595*, *Beethoven's Hammerklavier and Moonlight Sonatas*, *Alessio Bax Plays Brahms, Rachmaninov: Preludes & Melodies* (an American Record Guide "Critics' Choice"), *Bach Transcribed*, and *Baroque Reflections* (a Gramophone "Editor's Choice"). He also released the collection *Lullabies for Mila* on Signum Classics, which also features Chung and is dedicated to their young daughter, born in 2014.

First Prize winner of the Stravinsky International Piano Competition, Lucille Chung has been celebrated for her "stylish and refined" performances by Gramophone. She was born in Montreal, and made her debut at the age of ten with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, after which Charles Dutoit invited her as soloist on the orchestra's tour to Asia. She has since performed with orchestras around the world, including Philadelphia Orchestra, Moscow Virtuosi, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Seoul Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony, and Israel Chamber Orchestra, as well as all the major orchestras in Canada, among them the Montreal,

Toronto, and Vancouver Symphonies and National Arts Centre Orchestra. She has appeared with conductors such as Krzysztof Penderecki, Vladimir Spivakov, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Stéphane Denève, and Vasily Petrenko. Her solo discography includes the first volume of György Ligeti's complete piano works on the Dynamic label, *Camille Saint-Saëns: Piano Transcriptions, Mozart & Me*, as well as all-Poulenc and all-Liszt albums for Signum Classics.

The second volume of Chung's Ligeti project on the Dynamic label comprises his works for piano four hands and two pianos, and marks the first recorded collaboration between Bax & Chung. The disc garnered the maximum R10 *Classica* from the French magazine *Répertoire* and five stars from *Fono Forum* in Germany. In 2006, the duo released *Saint-Saëns's Carnival of the Animals* with the Fort Worth Symphony under Miguel Harth-Bedoya, with Michael York as narrator. *Bax & Chung: Piano Duo* appeared on Signum Classics in 2013, pairing Stravinsky's four-hand version of his ballet *Pétrouchka* with music by Brahms and Piazzolla.

Together, Bax & Chung have performed in major festivals and concert halls around the world; in 2008 alone, they logged 20,000 miles by train as they toured their four-hand *Pétrouchka* across the far reaches of Stravinsky's homeland. They have appeared at international festivals including Verbier in Switzerland; Við Djúpið in Iceland; the opening concert of Chungmu Hall in Seoul, Korea; the Pau Casals, Castilla y León, Torroella de Montgrí, and Pamplona International Festivals in Spain; Salon-de-Provence in France; the Felicja Blumental Festival in Tel Aviv; Lübecker Kammermusikfest, Moritzburg, and Schloss Elmau in Germany; Duszniki Chopin in Poland; Ottawa International Chamber Festival in Canada; and Music@Menlo, Mainly Mozart, and Bard Music Festival in the U.S.; besides giving performances in Aruba, Australia, Barbados, China, Cyprus, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Italy, Palestine, Russia, and the United Kingdom. In recent seasons they have performed at New York's Lincoln Center; the Chopin Society in Saint Paul, MN; Spivey Hall in Atlanta; Dumbarton Oaks series in Washington, DC; and the Sala São Paulo in Brazil.

Alessio Bax assumed the role of Artistic Director of Italy's *Incontri in Terra di Siena* Festival in 2017. Bax and Chung are co-artistic directors of the Joaquín Achúcarro Foundation in Dallas, Texas, created to cultivate the legacy of the Basque pianist and to support young pianists' careers.