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The Island Concert Association, Inc. is a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) corporation which seeks to sponsor presentations of classical music on St. Simons Island. All contributions are tax deductible. Financial support to completely underwrite the series is given by individuals and corporations and is deeply appreciated.

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fEBRUARY
fESTIVAL
2022

Chelsea Chen, Organist

Tuesday, February 8th, 2022
7:00 PM

St. Simons Presbyterian Church
205 Kings Way ~ St. Simons Island

Chelsea Chen, Organist

Sinfonia from Cantata No. 29, trans. Dupré J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Peer Gynt Suite, trans. Harvey Gaul Edvard Grieg (1843–1907)

Morning Mood
The Death of Åse
Anitra's Dance
In the Hall of the Mountain King

Organ Sonata No. 1 Felix Mendelssohn

Allegro moderato e serio
Adagio
Andante recitativo - Allegro assai vivace

Intermission

Built on a Rock (2006) John Weaver (1937-2021)

Three Taiwanese Folksongs (2007) Chelsea Chen (b. 1983)

Four Seasons
The Cradle Song
Song of the Country Farmer

The Swan from Carnival of the Animals, trans. Guilmant Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

Finale from "Organ" Symphony No. 3, trans. Briggs

“Meet the Artists”

reception follows in the Social Hall.

Represented by Reggie Bahl, Artist Manager, Manhattan Music Ensemble, Inc. New York, NY

Chelsea Chen

Chelsea Chen's dynamic playing has taken her to the far corners of the world. Her solo concerts offer a unique mix of traditional organ repertoire along with piano/orchestral transcriptions and contemporary music. The Los Angeles Times has praised her “rare musicality” and “lovely lyrical grandeur,” and a compositional style that is “charming” and “irresistible.”

Recent highlights include performing with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, San Diego Symphony, Singapore Chinese Orchestra (a traditional Chinese instruments ensemble) and the Lou Harrison Festival Rutgers Orchestra at Trinity Wall Street in Manhattan; the NYC concert was hailed by the New York Times as one of the top ten classical events of 2017. In 2019 she performed one of the inaugural concerts on St. Thomas Church's new Dobson organ in New York City. She was also a featured artist in festivals in Beijing, China, Uppsala, Sweden, and Stuttgart, Germany. During the pandemic she has performed in Switzerland with the music and dance troupe Ultra Schall.

Chelsea originally hails from San Diego, where her formative music teachers were organists Leslie Robb (St. Paul's Lutheran, San Diego) and Monte Maxwell (US Naval Academy, Annapolis) and pianists Baruch Arnon (New York City), Jane Bastien and Lori Bastien Vickers (San Diego). She studied under Paul Jacobs and John Weaver at The Juilliard School in New York, where she received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees. She also won the John Erskine Prize for academic and artistic achievement, awarded to one graduate per year. After college she moved to Taiwan under a Fulbright scholarship, whereupon she collected folk songs and wrote organ solo and chamber music. She returned to the U.S. to study with Thomas Murray in the Artist Diploma program at Yale University.

Ms. Chen has recorded multiple CDs: Reveries (2011) at Bethel University, Live at Heinz Chapel at the 2005 Convention of the American Institute of Organbuilders, Eastern Treasures (2010) with violinist Lewis Wong, Live at Coral Ridge (2014), and Explorations for Cello and Organ (2018) with cellist Joseph Lee. Her playing has been aired on CNN.com, “Pipedreams” from American Public Media, Hawaii Public Radio, and Taiwan's Good News Radio. Committed to new music, she has premiered works by composers throughout the world including Ola Gjeilo (Norway/USA), Yui Kitamura (Japan/USA), Julian Revie (Canada), Roderick Gorby (USA), Vincent Rone (USA), and Viviane Waschbüsch (Germany). Her compositions are available exclusively from Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc.

Chelsea was Artist-in-Residence at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church from 2013-2017, and currently lives with her husband in Zürich, Switzerland. Learn more about her at chelseachen.com.