

Kyung Wha Chung opens the 2016 Verbier Festival following Warner Classics signing



22 July 2016 | 19:00pm
Verbier Festival Orchestra
Charles Dutoit *conductor*
Kyung Wha Chung *violin*
Brahms Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in D Major, Op. 77
Berlioz Symphonie Fantastique Op. 14

24 July 2016 | 11:00am
Kyung Wha Chung *violin*
Kevin Kenner *piano*
Fauré Sonata for violin and piano No. 1 in A Major, Op. 13
Prokofiev Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 1 in F Minor, Op. 80
Franck Sonata for violin and piano in A Major

NEW CD: J.S. Bach Solo Sonatas & Partitas CD
 October 2016

"A sound of utter resplendency, a brilliantly shining tone right across the instrument...simply, relentlessly magnificent."

The Sunday Times (Paul Driver) December 2014

Kyung Wha Chung, who has made a sensational return to the concert stage, opens the **Verbier Festival** on 22 July alongside the Festival's orchestra and conductor **Charles Dutoit**, with whom she has performed for four decades. Kyung Wha Chung appears twice in the festival, with Brahms' *Violin Concerto* for the opening concert, followed by a morning recital on 24 July with sonata partner Kevin Kenner in a programme of Fauré, Prokofiev and Franck.



In April, Kyung Wha Chung signed an exclusive contract with Warner Classics to bring out three discs following a 15-year hiatus from the recording studio. To be released in October 2016, the first CD will be J. S. Bach's Complete Solo Works for Violin. Having made the recording in St George's Brandon Hill Bristol this spring, Kyung Wha has finally fulfilled a lifelong ambition. Chung held off recording these pieces, which she considers to be the pinnacle of the violin repertoire, until later in her career. Kyung Wha Chung's collaboration with Warner Classics began in 1988 when she signed an exclusive contract with EMI (now WC), which saw her make many critically-acclaimed recordings.

As Kyung Wha Chung explains: ***"I'm delighted to announce that I am so happy to be returning to the recording studio after many years for a***

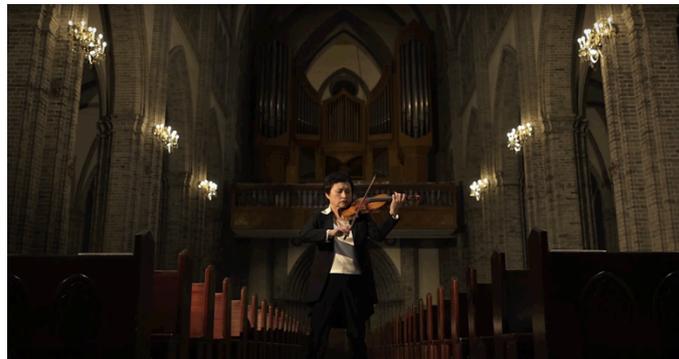
series of exciting artistic projects. The first of these is the solo Sonatas & Partitas of J.S. Bach: a monumental task. This is the unending quest of my musical journey."

Coinciding with the autumn CD release, Chung returns to the UK for a recital tour with sonata partner Kevin Kenner concluding at the Barbican Centre on 26 October 2016. Chung's second disc for Warner Classics will be a recital disc with Kenner to be recorded in autumn 2016 for release to coincide with her return to Carnegie Hall for a recital in May 2017.

"She's a star who radiates a constant light. Though younger players may flare to greater magnitudes, she remains, with a handful of famous names, like a fixed constellation among comets, meteors and other nine-day wonders."

The Independent

Chung is back in full force following a finger injury, which forced her to retire early from the stage at the peak of her career. During her decade out of the limelight, Chung devoted her energies to mentoring young musicians alongside charity performances until a return to the stage in 2010 where she performed with the Philharmonia Orchestra and Vladimir Ashkenazy in Seoul. In 2013 she had a 15-city tour of Asia including recitals in Tokyo, Beijing and Seoul. In December 2014, Chung made a memorable comeback alongside Kenner in a recital programme at London's Royal Festival Hall. Kyung Wha is relishing this new chapter in her career, which is allowing her to explore unfulfilled dreams. At the age of 68 with no less determination and renewed purpose, Kyung Wha considers this unexpected return a "miracle".



[Watch Kyung Wha Chung perform the Chaconne from Bach's Partita in D Minor](#)

Kyung Wha Chung



Kyung Wha Chung is recognised throughout the world as one of the finest violinists of her generation. A prolific recording artist, her dazzling and probing artistry has made her a much-acclaimed performer throughout her forty-year career. Lauded for her passion, her musicality, and the intense excitement that she brings to her performances, Chung's uniquely expressive interpretations of the violin literature have established her as an artist of the very highest stature. Born in

South Korea, Chung first heard the violin at the age of six. Instantly mesmerised by its tone, she was swiftly recognised as a child prodigy, making her concert debut aged nine with the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, performing the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto. At thirteen, Chung enrolled at The Juilliard School, New York, and began studying with renowned pedagogue Ivan Galamian, and later with Joseph Szigeti.

Upon winning the prestigious Edgar Leventritt Competition in 1967, Chung was immediately engaged by major American orchestras – including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic – and also performed at the exclusive White House Gala. She made her sensational European debut in 1970, performing the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with Sir André Previn and the London Symphony Orchestra, at London’s Royal Festival Hall. This concert was met with great critical acclaim and public attention, and – as a result – Chung received offers of concerts throughout the United Kingdom. Subsequently obtaining an exclusive recording contract with Decca/London, Chung’s debut album – of the Tchaikovsky and Sibelius concertos with Sir André Previn and the London Symphony Orchestra – brought her to international attention, and she continued to perform with the world’s greatest orchestras (including the Berlin Philharmonic, Vienna Philharmonic, London Philharmonic and Boston Symphony Orchestra, among others). Throughout her career, Kyung Wha Chung has enjoyed working alongside the world’s finest conductors, including Claudio Abbado, Daniel Barenboim, Charles Dutoit, Bernard Haitink, Riccardo Muti, Sir André Previn, Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Georg Solti and Klaus Tennstedt. Her chamber music partnerships have included high calibre pianists such as Peter Frankl, Kevin Kenner, Stephen Kovacevich, Radu Lupu, and Krystian Zimerman.

Kyung Wha Chung has recorded numerous award-winning albums, and her extensive discography reflects the impressive breadth of her repertoire. Following her recording contract with Decca/London, in 1988 Chung subsequently signed for a period with EMI Classics, and also released recordings with RCA and Deutsche Grammophon. Winner of two Gramophone Awards (the first, for her Deutsche Grammophon album of Strauss and Respighi sonatas with Krystian Zimerman; the second, for her EMI recording of Bartók's Second Violin Concerto with Sir Simon Rattle), Chung has also received many prizes and top honours – including the Medal of Civil Merit from the South Korean government, and the Ho Am Prize for the Arts in 2011.

Following an injury to her hand, Chung stopped performing in 2005. During this time away from the stage, she found a new calling as a teacher, joining the faculty of her alma mater, The Juilliard School. In addition to this, Kyung Wha Chung is Chair Professor for Music at Ewha University in Seoul, and Charity Ambassador for Better World (an active patron for their Child Rescue Project in Africa). She is also the Artistic Director of the Great Mountains Music Festival & School, based in South Korea.

Five years after her retirement, 2010 marked Chung’s triumphant return to the Asian stage. Greeted by enthusiastic audiences and the highest

critical acclaim, in 2013 she embarked on an extensive Asian tour of fifteen cities, including Seoul, Tokyo and Beijing. Kyung Wha Chung made her much anticipated return to the European concert platform in December 2014, with a national UK tour culminating in a sensational sell-out recital at the Royal Festival Hall, London. She will open the prestigious Verbier Festival in July 2016, performing the Brahms Violin Concerto with the Verbier Festival Orchestra and Charles Dutoit. Kyung Wha Chung has signed an exclusive international record contract with Warner Classics, the first release of which – Solo Bach Sonatas & Partitas – will be released in October 2016 and toured in concert in twelve major Asian cities that same year.

For more information on any of the above, please contact:

Nicky Thomas Media

101 Bell Street, London NW1 6TL
+44 (0)20 3714 7594 | +44 (0)20 7258 0909
info@nickythomasmedia.com
www.nickythomasmedia.com

