

A PIANO'S EXPRESSION OF THE SOUL

*In conversation with Steinway
Artist and concert pianist
Carol Yu.*

The sounds that a piano makes when the strings are struck resonate through the soul, pulling at your own heart strings and filling you with beautiful music. From warm melodies and smooth melancholic music to vibrant tunes with the crispest of notes, a piano can take you anywhere; transport you to a faraway land, turn back time to relive a memory gone by, and even inspire you for what's to come.

Nobody knows this better than the Steinway Artist and renowned concert pianist Carol Yu as she quotes German composer and pianist Robert Schumann, "Music to me is the perfect expression of the soul." She adds "I have always enjoyed performing on stage. I believe that not only am I sharing beautiful music with the audience, but I am also sharing my inner being, my beliefs, and my experiences as I interpret the musical work."

The top choice of over 90 percent of concert pianists in the world, each Steinway grand piano takes over a year to craft by hand from the finest materials. "Steinway pianos give me infinite possibilities of expression, and enable me to achieve greater artistic heights," says Carol. "Its mesmerising tone, sensitive and responsive touch, exquisite and splendid sonority are unsurpassed by any other piano."



Acclaimed by The Times UK for her incredible piano work, Carol has played concerts on an international scale and is celebrated for her delicate touch on the piano as well as her captivating and powerful expression. She has represented Hong Kong in a performance at the UK's House of Lords as well as the International Chopin Festival in Austria, and she has also engaged her musical talent to help those in need with benefit concerts for charities such as UNICEF and Habitat for Humanity.

It's no wonder that The Academy has invited her to play during the Riviera-inspired event Maison St. Tropez on Sunday, 15 August. "I am absolutely thrilled to be performing at Hong Kong Golf & Tennis Academy," exclaims Carol. "Thank you for the invitation to perform at this inaugural event. I very much look forward to meeting and sharing music with The Academy's members."

Carol will be the first Steinway Artist to perform on the brand new Steinway Spirio in which she will be delivering an enchanting programme of French music including well-known classics such as Claire de Lune. Members will also experience this live demonstration of the new piano, followed by a Meet the Artist session for informal chats as well as photos and autographs.



The Steinway is well-known as an impressive instrument, but now with the Spirio function, it's also a great music platform to have at home thanks to its comprehensive music library that is updated regularly through an app. "It's the perfect choice for home entertainment as it enables you to enjoy performances captured by great pianists," declares Carol. "And it's played with such nuance, power and passion that they are utterly indistinguishable from a live performance."

We took a moment to talk to the pianist of the hour to find out how her musical journey began. "Inspired by my two elder sisters, who were learning the piano at the time, I started playing the piano at the age of six." Not long after, Carol was awarded a full scholarship at the ripe age of 16 to study at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music in London. "Talent offers a head start, but persistence, determination and hard work are equally important," explains Carol. "From a young age, I realised that music is a powerful form of expression, it can express emotions, beauty, poetry and perceptions. Music, for me, became a language of communication. "Practice consistently, be patient, persistent and stay focused. Have a broad outlook on life, be open to new ideas and possibilities, and enjoy the music!"

On the topic of her biggest influencers, Carol commends the three renowned Russian masters Viktor Merzhanov, Irina Zaritskaya and Andrej Esterhazy who taught her during her studies in Europe. As she matured and flourished as a pianist, she inherited an amazing and impressive music tradition, consequently becoming "5th Generation Chopin Lineage" and "5th Generation Liszt Lineage".

However, as an artist, Carol acknowledges that it is life experience that shapes a pianist's music and imagination. Citing the legendary Russian pianist Heinrich Neuhaus, "Everything untranslatable that lives in a man's soul, everything subconscious is the domain of music. This is its source," says Carol. "I have broad and varied interests offstage, and I believe they enrich my music. I enjoy attending concerts, meeting and collaborating with other musicians, the visual arts, ballet, contemporary dance, hiking, Chinese calligraphy and cooking too!"



Not one to wear just one hat, teaching is another of Carol's talents. "It brings great joy to be able to witness their growth in their musical journey. To see them blossom into young artists and garner awards in competitions." Giving advice to budding pianists, she tells us that "the pursuit of musical excellence is a lifelong journey, so it's crucial to learn to enjoy the process."

Carol would love to share the experience with the Academy's members
where they can experience the Steinway grand pianos under a
pleasurable environment of the new flagship

STEINWAY & SONS Gallery at K11 MUSEA

Shop 107, 1/F, K11 MUSEA Victoria Dockside, 18 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui