

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
30 August 2017



Premiere Performances presents Hong Kong debut of Z.E.N. Piano Trio

Trio features three BBC New Generation Artists

*Concert to be held on 9 October 2017 (Monday), 8pm,
Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall*

30 August 2017 – Three of the world’s top rising stars, **Zhang Zuo** (piano), **Esther Yoo** (violin) and **Narek Hakhnazaryan** (cello) have joined forces as the **Z.E.N. Piano Trio** and will make their Hong Kong debut in the opening concert of Premiere Performances’ 2017-18 Recital Series. The concert will take place at the Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall on 9 October (Monday) at 8pm.

All three are BBC New Generation Artists, distinguishing them as the classical music stars of tomorrow. They met during their time in the BBC programme and decided to join forces as a trio because of their love of chamber music.

“[The New Generation Artists scheme] brought us together to record for BBC Radio 3 and we soon realised that we really got along very well, both personally and musically,” said violinist Esther Yoo. “We now have busy careers as soloists but understand the value of chamber music and how beneficial it is to our development as solo artists. They inspire me and we learn from each other.”

As soloists, all three musicians have wowed Hong Kong audiences recently. “Zee Zee” Zhang Zuo appeared in Premiere Performances’ 2016 Hong Kong International Chamber Music Festival. Narek Hakhnazaryan made a sensational Hong Kong debut in Premiere Performances’ 2016/2017 Recital Series, and Esther Yoo thrilled HK Phil audiences in 2013.

Z.E.N. Piano Trio will tour the UK and China before coming to Hong Kong for this concert, and are set to release their first recording on the Deutsche Grammophon label in late September. Individually, they have each won major international competitions as soloists and rave reviews internationally.

Premiere Performances is Hong Kong’s leading presenter of recitals and chamber music and regularly presents debuts of the world’s hottest rising stars. Hong Kong audiences will be among the first in the world to hear the recently formed Z.E.N. Trio in this concert. The ensemble will perform piano trios by Haydn, Brahms and Dvořák.

Tickets are \$480, \$300, \$200, and \$100 and are on sale now at www.pphk.org, at URBTIX outlets or online at www.urbtix.hk. Patrons who subscribe to Premiere Performances’ entire four-concert 2017-18 Recital Series before 9 October can save 25%.

Z.E.N. Piano Trio
9 October, 2017 (Mon), 8pm
Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall
\$480 / \$300 / \$200 / \$100

Programme:

HAYDN Piano Trio in E-flat Major, Hob.XV:10
BRAHMS Piano Trio No. 1, Op. 8 in B Major
DVORAK Piano Trio No. 4, Op. 90 "Dumky"

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About the Artists:

[ZHANG ZUO, piano](#)

Zhang Zuo is one of the most sought-after young artists in China, collaborating with virtually all major Chinese orchestras. Ms Zhang won first prize at China's 1st International Piano Concerto Competition and the Gina Bachauer International Artists Piano Competition, the coveted Petschek Piano Award at the Juilliard School, and was a prizewinner at the 2013 Queen Elizabeth Competition. She was a member of the prestigious BBC New Generation Artists program from 2014-2016.

[ESTHER YOO, violin](#)

Born in the U.S. and raised in Europe, Korean-American violinist **Esther Yoo** first came to international attention in 2010 when, aged 16, she became the youngest prizewinner of the 10th International Sibelius Violin Competition. In 2012, Ms Yoo was one of the youngest ever prize winners of the Queen Elisabeth Competition, and was named a BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist in 2014.

[NAREK HAKHNAZARYAN, cello](#)

Hailed by the *Washington Post* as "a seasoned phenomenon", **Narek Hakhnazaryan** is recognised world-wide as one of the finest cellists of his generation. Since winning the Cello First Prize and Gold Medal at the XIV International Tchaikovsky Competition in 2011, he has forged strong relationships with some of the world's most prestigious orchestras. Hakhnazaryan was selected to the prestigious 2014 BBC New Generation Artists Scheme, and his performances are broadcast regularly on BBC Radio 3.

About Premiere Performances

Premiere Performances brings internationally celebrated artists and the world's brightest rising stars to Hong Kong for solo recitals, chamber music and community outreach, building a vibrant local arts scene and inspiring audience members of all ages with performances that are accessible to all.

What is chamber music?

Chamber music is a form of classical music played by small ensembles of two to ten players. Unlike music played by soloists or in an orchestra, each instrument in chamber music has its own unique voice, and the players are in close musical conversation with each other.