

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Kawai, Enkei CEOs to attend Philharmonic opening concert

August 31, 2016 (Columbus, Ind.) – Returning from its triumphant *Musical Journey* in 2015-16, the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic spends its coming anniversary season, *30 years*, bringing its unique and renowned sound to music lovers across Southcentral Indiana, performing alongside world-renowned guest artists like Ann Hampton Callaway, The Wright Brothers, Di Wu, Sean Chen, and others.

The opening program on **Saturday, September 17, 2016** features award-winning pianist **Sean Chen at Erne Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.** Chen's performance marks the premiere of the orchestra's new Shigeru Kawai Concert Grand Piano, presented to the Philharmonic in February 2016 by Enkei America Inc., the first Japanese manufacturer to locate a manufacturing facility in Columbus, in celebration of the company's 30 years in Columbus.



Sean Chen

Saturday, September 17, 2016
Columbus North Judson S. Erne Auditorium
1400 25th Street | Columbus, IN 47201
7:30 p.m.

[Full Artist Bio](#)

Chadwick
Tchaikovsky
Rachmaninoff

Jubilee
Symphony No. 6
Piano Concerto No. 3

"This piano is a gift to the people of Columbus that will provide an opportunity for wonderful music through the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic for generations to come," says Junichi Suzuki, Chief Executive Officer of Enkei Group.

**"...a piano of this caliber
offers pianists the
opportunity to
experience the joy of
performing on a
world-class instrument."**

*Enkei Group CEO Junichi Suzuki
said in a news release*

Mr. Suzuki will attend the concert with long-time friend Hiroataka Kawai, President and Chief Executive Officer of Kawai Musical Instruments Manufacturing Company headquartered in Hamamatsu, Japan. The two discussed the piano donation after Mr. Suzuki heard a jazz ensemble while visiting Columbus last September and was told of the Philharmonic's need for a piano of its own.

"We recognize that a fine musical instrument is essential to faithfully translate artistic impressions," says Mr. Kawai in his President's Letter on the company's website. "It is through the musical instrument that the artist touches the heartstrings."

ABOUT THE CONCERT

Concert highlights include a look back at the first piece played by the orchestra 30 years ago as they introduce the season with Chadwick's exuberant *Jubilee*, the seven-and-a-half minute work begins with an explosive swirl of sound accented by percussion that follows a sunny melody passed among various instruments. The movement plays out in a similarly light and colorful tone, with only a brief reverie toward the end before a dashing ending.

Tchaikovsky's powerful *Symphony No. 6* follows in four movements capturing low bassoons, swirling strings, heroic brass, and a fading melancholic ending leaving the audience wanting more.

Mr. Chen closes with Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 3*, heard in the 1996 biographical film, *Shine*, based on the life of pianist David Helfgott. Listen as the piano arrives in the second movement, diverting the entire flow of the music while weaving virtuosic melodies and themes put forth by the orchestra in the first movement. Considered among the most bedeviling 15 minutes of piano music ever written, the explosive yet playful ending thunders with power.

"Rachmaninoff's concertos are well-known for astonishingly beautiful melodies, and his Third Concerto has many," says Dr. David Bowden, Music Director and Conductor. "But this work is even more revered and feared for its astonishing technical requirements of the pianist. Sean Chen makes the most of each, the compelling beauty and the brilliant virtuosity. This will be a performance not to be missed."

Forty-five minutes before the concert at 6:45 p.m., Sean Chen will join Dr. Bowden as they share their thoughts in a *Musically Speaking* pre-concert conversation free to concert ticket holders. This entertaining, spirited and informative discussion is a wonderful chance to become familiar with the program before the concert begins.

The Philharmonic will sell artist CDs after the concert in the lobby where Mr. Chen will autograph copies. Albums for sale include *La Valse* (2014) and his album recorded at the Fourteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 2013 where he won the Crystal Award.

Sponsored by an anonymous donor and Force Construction, concert tickets are currently on sale and can be purchased by calling the Philharmonic Box Office, 812-376-2638 x1 or online at www.theCIP.org/tickets. For more information, please visit the Concerts & Events tab at www.theCIP.org or click [here](#). The Philharmonic thanks Columbus Regional Health and The Republic for their season title and media sponsorships.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Hailed as a charismatic rising star with "an exceptional ability to connect with an audience combined with an easy virtuosity" by the *Huffington Post*, 26-year-old American pianist Sean Chen won third prize at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 2013, and was also awarded the Christel DeHaan Classical Fellowship of the American Pianists Association the same year. He continues to earn accolades for "alluring, colorfully shaded renditions" (*New York Times*), and was recently named a 2015 fellow by the prestigious Leonore Annenberg Fellowship Fund for the Performing Arts.

Lauded for his natural charisma and approachable personality, Mr. Chen is particularly in demand for residencies that combine performances with master classes, school concerts, and artist conversations.

"It was a muscular, impassioned performance, and you felt that he is an artist with something to say."

Cincinnati Enquirer

ABOUT COLUMBUS INDIANA PHILHARMONIC

Started in 1987 under the auspices of Columbus Pro Musica, Inc., the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic is celebrating its 30th anniversary season in 2016. The Philharmonic Orchestra and David Bowden have received local, state, national and international recognition, winning five ASCAP awards and consistently receiving rave reviews for their performances. With a full complement of concerts, cabarets and music education programs, the Philharmonic is proud to be one of the arts organizations that contribute to the rich quality of life enjoyed by residents of Columbus and surrounding communities.

The Columbus Indiana Philharmonic is a public, not-for-profit organization supported by private donations, the Columbus Area Arts Council, the Indiana Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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