

# **FREE! CONCERT PERFORMANCES**

## **Monday, April 11th - 8:15pm** **Schmitt Music Fargo**

**Please join UND Assistant Professor Nariaki Sugiura and these piano students for this special evening with a variety of classical piano pieces.**



**BENTON SCHMIDT**



**MELODY QIXUAN LIN**



**MATTHEW SEBALD**



**NORA HYDE**



**JACKSON RICHARDS**



**YECHUN WANG**

**BENTON SCHMIDT** has been playing piano since the age of 5. He has performed with members of Ensemble Intercontemporain, Orchestra Iowa, and competed in several piano competitions, and also performed in the Fargo-Moorhead Rotary Club's Recital With a Cause for polio awareness. Schmidt began studying piano with Dr. Robert Groves while in his junior year of high school, and is now in his third year at NDSU working towards a degree in Piano Performance. He is a recipient of the Bill Euren Fellowship award, a four-year full tuition scholarship. He teaches at the NDSU Music Academy, while also maintaining a private studio and accompanying for vocalists and instrumentalists at NDSU and Concordia. As the rehearsal pianist for NDSU Opera, he has prepared singers for Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *HMS Pinafore*, and an opera scenes recital program. He also enjoys playing in pit orchestras for Theatre NDSU and Trollwood Performing Arts School. As a violinist in high school, he was a member of the Fargo Moorhead Area Youth Symphonies for two years. As a singer and accompanist, Schmidt performs with the NDSU Concert Choir and University Chamber Singers.

**YECHUN WANG** is currently a DMA student at NDSU. She received her Master of Music in piano performance from NDSU in May 2014. She has studied with Professor Robert Groves at NDSU's School of Music since 2008. Before that, she received training in piano from Ms. Jialing Ma (Shanghai, China). As a participant in the 2015 NDSU Chamber Music Festival, Yechun Wang performed with members of the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra. Yechun Wang was one of the winners of the 2014-15 University Orchestra Concerto Competition jointly hosted by NDSU and MSUM and performed with the University Symphony Orchestra in March 2015.

From his first lessons filled with childlike eagerness to his musical studies at the University of North Dakota, **MATTHEW SEBALD** has devoted his life to the pursuit of music. Beginning lessons at age 7 with Lillian Simmons, Matthew quickly developed a passion for music as a career. He is currently studying under Dr. Nariaki Sugiura at the University of the North Dakota. His accomplishments to date include performing with the UND Chamber Orchestra as the winner of the UND Mozart Piano Concerto Competition of 2015 and performing in master classes with Dr. Lydia Artymiw and John Clodfelter.

**MELODY QIXUAN LIN** is pursuing her master degree in piano performance, in addition to working as the graduate teaching assistant at the University of North Dakota. She received her Bachelor of Music in piano performance at the Xinghai Conservatory of Music in Guangzhou, China, and held her recital with professor Ningwu Du in July of 2014 in Xinghai conservatory of music Concert Hall. During her college time, Melody participated Pearl River-Kayserburg Cup in 2013, and won the excellence award. She also works as a private piano teacher for four years in Guangzhou. Her students get good results in the level examination and competitions. During her graduate studying, Melody is also active as a collaborative pianist for choir, instrumentalists and vocalists, playing for different areas, such as student recitals, ND NATS (North Dakota-National Association of Teachers of Singing), concerts include: the Winter wUNDERland Concert in Chester Fritz Auditorium, the 30th Honor Band & Choir Festival in January 2015, the Women in songs Concert at Empire Arts Center in Grand Forks, ND, and the Grand Forks Master Chorale in Thief River Falls, MN.

**NORA HYDE** is currently a student at Valley City State University, under the tutelage of Geraldine Ong. A native of Fargo, she has been the playing piano since four and aspires to be a collaborative artist. She has worked as an accompanist for choirs and musical theaters in the Fargo-Moorhead and Valley City areas. In addition to classical piano, Nora also enjoys playing jazz and rock music.

Born in Madison, South Dakota, **JACKSON RICHARDS** has been making noise at the piano ever since he was strong enough to depress the keys. However, his serious study of the instrument began many years later in his hometown under the instruction of Mrs. Colleen Tucker. Following his high school graduation, Richards has studied piano performance on full scholarship at Concordia College with Dr. Grigor Khachatryan. During his two years at Concordia, Richards has performed as the pianist of both The Concordia Band and The Concordia Orchestra and has collaborated with a variety of chamber music ensembles and choirs on both piano and horn. Mr. Richards presented his debut solo recital earlier this year.



**Please RSVP to 701-281-1828 ext. 1 or  
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