



Shandeele Music Festival Presents “The Young Artists of Shandeele”



LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY (July 25, 2014) – The 21st Anniversary Season of the Shandeele Music Festival continues on Saturday, August 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. with a performance by the "Young Artists of Shandeele," pianists Helen Shen and Claudia Hu.

Helen Shen gave her formal US orchestra debut this past February, appearing as a soloist with the Plainfield Symphony Orchestra, having first appeared at Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall at age six as a winner of the Russian Music Festival Competition. In 2013 she attended the Shandeele Music Festival as the Jim Ricketts Memorial Scholarship recipient. Shen is a multiple award winner, and was recently chosen to perform at the 2014 Annual Showcase of Exceptionally Talented Young Artists presented by Crescent Concerts. Among other honors, she is the First Place winner of the 2010 NJMTA Young Musician Competition, First Place winner of the 2009 & 2010 Cecilian Music Club Piano Competition, First Prize Winner of Russian Music Festival Competitions (2006, 2009, 2011) and Silver Prize and First Place winner at the Solo & Young Artists Divisions of YPCNJ (2008-2011).

Pianist Claudia Hu has appeared numerous times at the Weill Recital Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Steinway Hall, and the St. Nicoló Auditorium in Chioggia, Italy. In the fall of 2012, she performed two full-length piano solo fundraising concerts to benefit the Shandeele Music Festival and YPCNJ. Hu is the three-time winner of the Russian Music Festival Competition, prize winner of the Cecilian Music Club’s Young Artist Competition, 2010 Gold Prizewinner of the Concerto–One-Movement Division, 2012 Gold Prizewinner of the Young Artist Division, and 2010 Silver Prize of the Ensemble Division of the Young Pianist Competition of New Jersey (YPCNJ). In 2012 and 2013, as a recipient of the Jim Ricketts Memorial Scholarship and the Shandeele Music Festival’s Scholarship, Hu attended the Shandeele Music Festival where she studied with renowned pianists Alexander Shtarkman and Alexander Kobrin and appeared on the Festival’s Sunset Concert series.



In July 2013, both Shen and Hu were featured artists in Shandeele Music Festival’s Sunset Concert Series held at the Events Gallery in Bethel Woods.

On August 9, Shen will perform Scarlatti’s “Sonata in E major, K. 380,” Beethoven’s “Sonata Op. 2, No. 2,” Liszt’s “Hungarian Rhapsodie No. 11, S. 244” and two of Chopin’s Nocturnes. Hu will perform Mozart’s “Sonata, K. 570 in B flat Major,” Schumann’s “Arabeske,” and four compositions by Chopin.

This concert by the “outstanding award-winning alumni of the Shandeele Music Festival,” will be followed by a specialty dessert reception. Concert tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students aged 17 and under. Advanced reservations are required, and can be made by calling 845-439-3277. Online ticket reservations are available at <http://www.shandeele.org/concerts/tickets.htm>.

The entire Shandeele Music Festival venue is handicapped accessible, including the parking area, seating and restrooms.

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About the Shandeele Music Festival: Founded in 1993, the Shandeele Music Festival is the manifestation of a love for the arts and the recognition of the human spirit. A private, not-for-profit organization, the Shandeele Music Festival’s philosophies and goals provide for the further development and nurturing of an individual’s creativity and passion for music while enriching the cultural community of Sullivan County. By providing students the opportunity to perform in joint recitals, master classes and informal concerts, the students develop mastery of their instrument while enhancing the community’s appreciation for classical music.