



Yunchan Lim
Live from the Cliburn
Liszt: Transcendental Etudes



THE CLIBURN



STEINWAY & SONS



THE CLIBURN

Widely considered one of the preeminent international music contests, the **Van Cliburn International Piano Competition** exists to launch the careers of its winners every four years and to share excellent classical music with the largest international audience possible. Building on a rich tradition that began with its 1962 origins in honor of Van Cliburn and his vision for using music to serve audiences and break down boundaries, the Cliburn seeks, with each edition, to achieve the highest artistic standards while utilizing contemporary tools to advance its reach.

The sixteenth edition of the Cliburn Competition took place June 2-18, 2022 in Fort Worth, Texas at the brand-new Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU and Bass Performance Hall. The world's top 18- to 30-year-old pianists competed for gold in front of a live audience in Fort Worth, Texas, as well as a global online fanbase that grew exponentially during and following the event. The fully produced webcast included all 28 Competition live performances—as well as offered insightful commentary and behind-the-scenes access emulating a news- or sportscast—**and amassed more than 40 million views** in 2022, making it one of the most watched classical music events in history.

Beyond winning cash prizes, the three medalists receive a comprehensive and personalized career management package, including three years of concert bookings, artistic planning mentorship, traditional and social media training, logistics support, and tax and financial planning guidance, as well as promotional packages. For the laureates of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, competing in—and winning—the global cultural event marks only the beginning of their professional lives in music. The Competition is foremost a launch pad for establishing meaningful careers.



In June 2022, **Yunchan Lim** became the youngest person ever to win gold at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition; his performances throughout showcased a “magical ability” and a “natural, instinctive quality” (*La Scena*) that astounded listeners around the world. As Jury Chair Marin Alsop expressed: “Yunchan is that rare artist who brings profound musicality and prodigious technique organically together.” The depth of his artistry and connection to listeners also secured him the Audience Award and Best Performance of a New Work.

Just 19 years old, Yunchan’s ascent to international stardom has been meteoric. His audacious Cliburn Semifinal Round performance of Liszt’s Transcendental Etudes “created a buzz throughout the international piano community”—his “intelligent virtuosity and total immersion into Liszt’s idiom truly defined transcendental” (*Gramophone*). And his final Cliburn Competition appearance with Rachmaninov’s Piano Concerto No. 3 delivered the defining moment of the three-week event. One critic noted: “The applause that followed was endless: a star had emerged before our eyes” (*Seen and Heard International*); *The Economist* hailed him for making “each note crystalline, purposeful and often

startlingly beautiful;” and *The New York Times* listed it as one of the Top 10 Classical Music Performances of 2022. The video of that performance trended globally on YouTube in the days after, reaching #24, and has now become the most-watched version of that piece on the platform, amassing over 10 million views in eight months.

Invitations from the most prestigious concert halls and orchestras immediately followed: recent and upcoming highlights across North America, Europe, and Asia include concerto engagements with the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Baltimore Symphony, and Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestras, and Orchestre de Paris; festival appearances at Aspen, Bravo! Vail, and Ravinia; and recitals for Carnegie Hall, Washington Performing Arts at the Kennedy Center, Wigmore Hall, Fondation Louis Vuitton, Suntory Hall, and Seoul Arts Center, among other major stages.

Born in Siheung, Korea, Yunchan Lim began piano lessons at age 7, when it was time to choose an after-school activity; he entered the Music Academy of the Seoul Arts Center the next year and quickly became immersed in his musical studies. He auditioned for and was accepted into the Korea National Institute for the Gifted in Arts at age 13, where he met his teacher and mentor, Minsoo Sohn. Yunchan entered the international music stage a year later, in 2018, winning second prize and the Chopin Special Award in his first-ever competition, the Cleveland International Piano Competition for Young Artists. Also that year, he stood out as the youngest participant in the Cooper International Competition, where he won both third prize and the audience prize, and was provided the opportunity to perform with the Cleveland Orchestra. The next year, 2019, brought more accolades, when, at the age of 15, he was the youngest to win Korea’s IsangYun International Competition, also taking home two special prizes.

Yunchan has previously performed across South Korea—including with the Korean Orchestra Festival, Korea Symphony, Suwon Philharmonic, and Busan Philharmonic Orchestras, among others—as well as in Madrid, at the invitation of the Korea Cultural Center in Spain. He participated in the recording of “2020 Young Musicians of Korea,” organized by the Korean Broadcasting System and released that November.

Speaking at a press conference after the Competition, Yunchan said, “I made up my mind that I will live my life only for the sake of music, and I decided that I will give up everything for music... I wanted my music to become deeper, and if that desire reached the audience, I’m satisfied.”

Yunchan Lim | Live from the Cliburn

Liszt: Transcendental Etudes

Recorded June 10, 2022 at Bass Performance Hall, Fort Worth, Texas

Semifinal Round of the Sixteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition

Producer: Jacques Marquis, President and CEO, The Cliburn

Recorded, Engineered, and Mastered by Tom Lazarus

Executive Producers: Eric Feidner, Jon Feidner, Vivian Chiu

Art Direction: Jackie Fugere

Design: Cover to Cover Design, Anilda Carrasquillo

Cover Photo: Richard Rodriguez, The Cliburn

Inside Photos: Lisa-Marie Mazzucco

Artist Liaison: Rosalie Burrell

Production Assistant: Renée Oakford

Piano: Steinway Model D #607046 (New York)

Yunchan Lim | Live from the Cliburn

“Yunchan Lim is that rare artist who brings profound musicality and prodigious technique organically together.” – Marin Alsop

Franz Liszt (1811–1886)

Études d'exécution transcendante, S 139

1. I. Preludio 0:59
2. II. Molto vivace 2:24
3. III. Paysage 5:13
4. IV. Mazeppa 7:36
5. V. Feux follets 3:28
6. VI. Vision 5:25
7. VII. Eroica 4:40
8. VIII. Wilde Jagd 4:46
9. IX. Ricordanza 11:24
10. X. Allegro agitato molto 4:17
11. XI. Harmonies du Soir 9:08
12. XII. Chasse-neige 5:26

Playing time: 64:54



Steinway & Sons

© © 2023 Steinway, Inc.

Steinway and the lyre are registered trademarks.

All rights reserved. Made in the USA.

