

Maxima Artist Management Limited

John Chen, Pianist

Australasia's major virtuoso

"...brings to mind those few really creative interpreter-pianists like Richter and Serkin" – Clive O'Connell, The [Melbourne] Age



SUMMARY

In 2004, at the age of 18, John Chen became the youngest-ever winner of the prestigious Sydney International Piano Competition. He was also awarded special prizes for best performance of works by Beethoven, Mozart, Schubert, Chamber Music, and the 19th/20th Century Concerto. This followed his first-prize win in the third Lev Vlassenko Australasian Piano Competition in Brisbane in 2003, where he swept all the special prizes.

In the five years since, John has become one of the very few whose career has matched its auspicious competition beginnings. He has a formidable profile in Australia where he has worked with all of the big six orchestras as well as Orchestra Victoria and the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, and where *limelight* magazine placed him last year in their top 50 power players to watch in the arts – in the company of luminaries such as Vladimir Ashkenazy and Cate Blanchett.

REPERTOIRE

Bartok	no 1 in e minor	Queensland Symphony Orchestra	David Stanhope	Queensland Studios	Aug-07
Bartok	no 3 in E	Tasmania Symphony Orchestra	Olari Elts	Hobart Town Hall	Apr-06
Beethoven	no 1 in C, op. 15	Tasmania Symphony Orchestra	Marco Zuccarini	Federation Concert Hall	May-09
Beethoven	no 5 in Eb op 73	Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra	Ben Northey	Melbourne Perf Arts	Oct-07
Beethoven	no 5 in Eb op 73	Jena Philharmonic Orchestra	Nicholas Milton	Jena Volkshaus	Apr-08
Brahms	no 1 in d minor op 15	Auckland Youth Orchestra	Antun Poljanich	New Zealand tour (x4)	Oct-02
Brahms	no 2 in Bb op 83	Auckland Youth Orchestra	Antun Poljanich	New Zealand tour (x3)	Oct-04
Chopin	no 1 in e minor op 11	Adelaide Symphony Orchestra	Olari Elts	Adelaide Town Hall (x3)	May-06
Gershwin	Piano Concerto in F	Melbourne Symphony Orchestra	Oleg Caetani	Sidney Myer Bowl	Feb-09
Gershwin	Rhapsody in Blue	West Australia Symphony Orchestra	Paul Daniel	Perth Concert Hall (x2)	Dec-09
Mozart	no 7 in F K282 (triple)	Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra	Jeffrey Kahane	Los Angeles Royce Hall	Nov-06
Mozart	no 17 in G K453	Auckland University Orchestra	Uwe Grodd	Auckland Town Hall	May-04
Mozart	no 17 in G K453	Australian Chamber Orchestra	Christoph Poppen	Sydney Opera House	Jul-04
Mozart	no 25 in C K503	Melbourne Symphony Orchestra	John Storgårds	Victoria tour (Aus) (x2)	May-06
Poulenc	Double concerto	Auckland Philharmonia	Rodolfo Fischer	Auckland Town Hall	Nov-05
Prokofiev	no 1 in Db op 10	Auckland Philharmonia	Miguel Harth-Bedoya	Auckland Town Hall	Nov-04
Prokofiev	no 3 in C op 26	New Zealand Symphony Orchestra	James Judd	Wellington Town Hall	Apr-02
Prokofiev	no 3 in C op 26	Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra	Werner Andreas Albert	Queensland Perf Arts	Aug-03
Prokofiev	no 3 in C op 26	Orchestra Victoria	Vladimir Verbitsky	Melbourne Perf Arts	Nov-03
Prokofiev	no 3 in C op 26	New Zealand Youth Orchestra	Edwin Outwater	New Zealand tour (x3)	Aug-05
Rachmaninov	no 1 in f# minor op 1	Wollongong Symphony Orchestra (AUS)	Carlos Alvarado	Wollongong Town Hall	Apr-06
Rachmaninov	no 1 in f# minor op 1	Melbourne Symphony Orchestra	Marc Taddei	Melbourne Town Hall	Jun-06
Rachmaninov	no 2 in c minor op 18	Canberra Symphony Orchestra	Nicholas Milton	Llewellyn Hall (x2)	Sep-07
Rachmaninov	no 2 in c minor op 18	Auckland Philharmonia	Johannes Fritzsich	Auckland Town Hall (x2)	Apr-08
Rachmaninov	no 2 in c minor op 18	Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra	Yasuo Shinozaki	Hong Kong Hall (x2)	Oct-08
Rachmaninov	no 2 in c minor op 18	(Singapore) Orchestra of the Music Makers	Chan Tze Law	Victoria Concert Hall	Aug-09
Rachmaninov	no 3 in d minor op 30	Auckland University Orchestra	Uwe Grodd	Auckland Town Hall	Aug-03
Rachmaninov	no 3 in d minor op 30	Wellington Youth Orchestra	Owen Clarke	Wellington Town Hall	May-04
Rachmaninov	no 3 in d minor op 30	Sydney Symphony Orchestra	János Fürst	Sydney Opera House	Jul-04
Rachmaninov	Paganini Rhapsody	Christchurch Symphony Orchestra	William Southgate	Christchurch Town Hall	Feb-07
Ravel	in G	Christchurch Symphony Orchestra	Marc Taddei	Christchurch Town Hall	Jul-05
Ravel	in G	Vector Wellington Orchestra	Marc Taddei	New Zealand tour (x3)	Nov-07
Ravel	For the Left Hand	NZSO National Youth Orchestra	Paul Daniel	New Zealand tour (x3)	Jul-09
Schumann	in a minor op 54	Melbourne Symphony Orchestra	Oleg Caetani	Melbourne Perf Arts	Aug-08
Shostakovich	no 2 in F op 102	Willoughby Symphony Orchestra (Aus)	Nicholas Milton	Willoughby Town Hall	Feb-05
Shostakovich	no 2 in F op 102	New Zealand Symphony Orchestra	Ken Young	Wellington Town Hall	Feb-05
Smalley (AUS)	no 2 (world premiere)	Sydney Youth Orchestra	Ron Prussing	Sydney Recital Hall	Apr-06
Smalley (AUS)	no 2	West Australia Symphony Orchestra	James McMillan	Perth Concert Hall	May-07
Smalley (AUS)	no 2	Queensland Symphony Orchestra	David Stanhope	Queensland Studios	Aug-07
Tchaikovsky	no 1 in bb minor op 23	Vector Wellington Orchestra	Marc Taddei	New Zealand tour (x4)	Jun-08
Tchaikovsky	no 2 in G op 44	Auckland Philharmonia	Oleg Caetani	Auckland Town Hall	Mar-07
Tchaikovsky	no 2 in G op 44	Christchurch Symphony Orchestra	William Southgate	Christchurch Town Hall	Dec-07

MORE DETAILS

New Zealand National, based in Los Angeles | www.maximaltd.com/johnchen
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JOHN CHEN BIOGRAPHY

"[Chen] introduced himself with magnificence and mega-chords... When a virtuoso line was called for, as in the final cadenza, Chen responded with torrential brilliance."

William Dart, New Zealand Herald

"Chen's interpretation of the [Liszt B minor] sonata showed an astonishing maturity."

Peter Shaw, New Zealand Listener

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In the five years since, John has become one of the very few whose career has matched its auspicious competition beginnings. He has a formidable profile in Australia where he has worked with the Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, West Australia, Tasmania and Canberra Symphony Orchestras, The Queensland Orchestra and Orchestra Victoria, and where *limelight* magazine placed him last year in their top 50 power players to watch in the arts – in the company of luminaries such as Vladimir Ashkenazy and Cate Blanchett.

In New Zealand, John has appeared with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, the Auckland Philharmonia, the Vector Wellington and the Christchurch Symphony Orchestras. Eminent conductors with whom he has worked include the late János Fürst, Olari Elts, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Oleg Caetani, Werner Andreas Albert, Vladimir Verbitsky, Marc Taddei, James Judd, James MacMillan, John Storgårds, Christoph Poppen, Johannes Fritzsche, William Southgate, Rodolfo Fischer, Edwin Outwater, Yasuo Shinozaki, Nicholas Milton and Ken Young. This year sees his debut with the (Singapore) Orchestra of the Music Makers as well as work with conductors Marco Zuccarini and Paul Daniel.

As a chamber musician, John has performed with the Los Angeles, Australian, and Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestras, collaborating with Jeffrey Kahane, Christoph Poppen and Ben Northey. His Sguaro Piano Trio (with violinist Luanne Homzy and cellist Peter Myers) won Bronze at the 2008 Fischhoff International Chamber Music Competition, the most prestigious chamber competition in the United States, and second place at the Osaka International Chamber Music Competition – one of the world's top 3 chamber music competitions. In 2008 he completed an extensive Australian tour with Paganini Prize winner violinist Feng Ning under the auspices of Musica Viva – presenting the same programme twice in New Zealand. 2009 plans include an exciting New Zealand collaboration of Piano Quintets with the T'ang Quartet (Singapore), and an extensive Australasian solo recital tour. In addition, he'll make a nationwide tour of New Zealand with the NZSO National Youth Orchestra, return to the Melbourne, Tasmania and the West Australian Symphony Orchestras, and participate in the Geza Anda and Leeds International competitions.

Chen began his piano studies at the age of three. He studied with prominent New Zealand pedagogue Rae de Lisle for 11 years, gaining a Master of Music degree from the University of Auckland by the time he was 18 under her tutelage. He won his first piano competition at the age of nine, and over the subsequent years was successful in a number of national competitions. He made his official orchestral debut aged 15, performing Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3 with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. Since then he has performed in New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, USA and Germany (at the prestigious Ruhr Festival). In 2006 he completed a tour of 31 Australian cities, which holds the record for the longest Australian tour ever undertaken by a classical musician. The same year he toured 14 New Zealand cities with Chamber Music New Zealand. In 2007 he made another extensive Chamber Music New Zealand and was re-invited to many Australian and New Zealand orchestras. Last year John returned to Germany for a series of recitals and to participate in the Bochum Festival with the Jena Orchestra.

Chen has a particular passion for 20th century French music. He has recorded the complete solo piano works of Henri Dutilleux ([Naxos 8.557823](#)) and a selection of Debussy and Ravel, just released in 2008 (ABC Classics ISBN / Catalogue Number: [4766834](#)).

John is also deeply committed to New Zealand music, giving the world premieres of works by New Zealand composers Jenny McLeod, Ross Harris, and Claire Cowan (a work he commissioned himself). He has also given the world premiere of the second piano concerto of Australian composer Roger Smalley. John is currently based in the US where between recitals he is working towards his doctorate in piano performance at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

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