

A portrait of pianist Charlotte Hu. She is a woman with dark, wavy hair, smiling and looking towards the right. She is wearing a deep red, sleeveless velvet dress with a V-neckline and a gathered waist. She is seated at a dark wooden grand piano, with her hands clasped in her lap. The piano's keyboard is visible in the foreground. The background is a dark, textured wall.

Liszt Metamorphosis
Charlotte Hu

Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

Années de Pèlerinage III, S.163

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| 1 | No. 4, Les jeux d'eau à la Villa d'Este | 7. 58 |
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Schwanengesang, S. 560

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| 2 | No. 4, Ständchen (Transcribed from Schubert's D. 957) | 4. 54 |
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12 Lieder von Franz Schubert, S. 558

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| 3 | No. 2, Auf dem Wasser zu singen (Transcribed from Schubert's D.774) | 4. 07 |
| 4 | No. 12, Ave Maria (Transcribed from Schubert's D.839) | 5. 21 |
| 5 | No. 4, Erlkönig (Transcribed from Schubert's D.328) | 4. 32 |

- | | | |
|---|---|-------|
| 6 | Liebeslied , S. 566 (After Schumann's Widmung, Op. 25 No. 1) | 4. 22 |
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3 Concert Études, S.144

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| 7 | No.1, Il lamento | 10. 10 |
| 8 | No.2, La leggerezza | 5. 45 |
| 9 | No. 3, Un sospiro | 6. 14 |

Rhapsodie espagnole, S.254

- | | | |
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| 10 | I. Allegro | 13. 59 |
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Total playing time:	74. 44
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Charlotte Hu, piano



“Metamorphosis” is a profound and transformative process that lies at the heart of my Liszt album. It mirrors both the metamorphic nature of the repertoire and my personal and professional journey.

This journey is reflected in my choice of repertoire, spanning from Liszt’s initial virtuosic writing to his later emotional and philosophical compositions. Liszt pushed the boundaries of harmony and form, creating revolutionary piano writing that is both symphonic and introspective. I want to take listeners on a journey through the intricate and dramatic storytelling of each work, showcasing the storied transformation from the first track to the last. Every musical choice was made to surprise, comfort, and savor.

With this album’s release, I also went through a metamorphosis of my own and adopted a new name! I hope my journey inspires you to embrace the freedom to pursue your dreams and to listen and feel deeply.

Charlotte Hu
胡芳芳



Biography

Described as a “first-class talent” (Philadelphia Inquirer) possessing a “superstar quality – musical, energetic, and full of flair” (Jerusalem Post), Taiwanese-American pianist Charlotte Hu, formerly known as Ching-Yun Hu, has been praised by audiences and critics across the globe for her dazzling virtuosity, captivating musicianship, and magnetic stage presence. As a soloist, she has astounded audiences across the U.S., Europe, and Asia, performing sold-out concerts at many of the world’s most prestigious venues, including Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Wigmore Hall, the Concertgebouw, Taipei National Concert Hall, and Osaka’s Symphony Hall. She is a frequent guest at music festivals, such as the Aspen Music Festival, Ruhr-Klavier Festival, Oregon

Bach Festival. Concerto engagements have included performances with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, and Taiwan Philharmonic, among others.

At the heart of her success is a story of strength, dedication, and resilience that has powered her dream of becoming a world-class artist. Moving to the United States from Taiwan at age 14 without her parents to begin studies at The Juilliard School was the first of many challenges Charlotte overcame in building her illustrious career – one that has included winning top prizes at the 12th Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition and the Concert Artists Guild Competition, performing on classical music’s biggest stages, and fostering the next generation of musicians as an advocate for classical music

through entrepreneurial and philanthropic initiatives.

Today, in addition to her prolific performing career, Charlotte is the founder of two piano festivals across two continents: the Yun-Hsiang International Music Festival in Taipei and the PYPa Piano Festival in Philadelphia. Now in its 12th year, PYPa has become an important fixture in the classical music world, cultivating a deeper appreciation for classical music and serving as a bridge of cultural partnerships between West and East. A tireless advocate for humanity, Charlotte raised \$27,000 for youth education charities through a Hope Charity Concert live-streamed on her Facebook page in June 2020. The online concert reached more than 140,000 people across the globe. An active recording artist, Charlotte

Hu’s debut album of Chopin works on ArchiMusic was named Best Classical Album of the Year by Taiwan’s prestigious Golden Melody Award, and recordings released on Naxos/CAG Records and BMOP/sound with Boston Modern Orchestra Project have received overwhelming critical acclaim. Her Rachmaninoff album on Centaur/Naxos received a five-star review by the U.K.’s Pianist magazine, which called it “essential listening for Rachmaninoff admirers.”

With a dedication to making classical music more accessible, Charlotte Hu presents captivating programs that tell human stories inclusive of gender and race. By juxtaposing audience favorites with underperformed treasures and newly commissioned works, Charlotte’s recitals consistently offer musical and narrative contrasts that encourage people to listen

deeply and discover anew the work of even the most well-known composers. A Steinway Artist, Charlotte Hu serves as an artist in residence at Temple University in Philadelphia, in addition to her busy performance schedule. She is a frequent guest artist, leading master classes and artist residencies at universities and music festivals worldwide. She holds degrees from The Juilliard School, Cleveland Institute of Music, and Germany's Hanover University of Music, Drama, and Media, where she studied with Herbert Stessin, Sergei Babayan, and Karl-Heinz Kammerling, respectively.

Program Notes

Les jeux d'eau à la Villa d'Este presents Liszt as a composer of vivid, painterly impressions decades before the musical style made famous by Debussy and Ravel. With its waves of whispering and shimmering arpeggios gliding throughout the full range of the keyboard, this work immediately enchants listeners and draws them in.

A collection of five lieder transcriptions speak to a side of Liszt often forgotten — one rooted in his spirituality and deep love for German poetry. These Schubert and Schumann lieder are instantly recognizable to many listeners, and even without their texts, Liszt's mesmerizing transcriptions chart a journey of the heart — reflecting on love and longing, the passage of

time, and the supernatural realm that lies beyond what our eyes can see.

The album's second half offers some of Liszt's most colorful and spirited music. The *Three Concert Études* are scintillating tone poems that, in terms of cinematic scope, match the power of those he wrote for large orchestra. And the *Rhapsodie espagnole* brings a showstopping conclusion in an exhilarating celebration of Spanish culture, inspired by the composer's own travels to the Iberian Peninsula in 1845.

More about Charlotte

With this album's release, Charlotte Hu announces a metamorphosis of her own — a new name. She says, "When I came to America from Taiwan at the age of 14, my Chinese

name was translated to Ching-Yun. Though musical sounding, the translation from Chinese did not reflect its origin. I've long felt the need to embrace my evolving identity. To better reflect this new direction, I have chosen Charlotte Hu as my new stage name. Having lived as Ching-Yun in the media for decades and through so many important life milestones, it was not an easy decision. However, with time, experience, and self-realization comes strength to embrace change. Charlotte, with French origins, means freedom. As a Taiwanese-American, Charlotte embodies the core of my personality and lifelong aspiration to have the courage to act, think, and speak without hindrance or restraint."



Acknowledgements

PRODUCTION TEAM

Recording Producer **Charlotte Hu**

Recording Engineer & Artistic Advisor **Adam Abeshouse**

Publicist, North America **Christina Jensen**

Piano **Steinway & Sons**

Liner notes **Charlotte Hu** | Photography **Dario Acosta**

Cover design **Marjolein Coenrady**

Product management & Design **Kasper van Kooten**

Recorded at Abeshouse Productions Studio in New York from January 3 to 5, 2023

PENTATONE TEAM

Vice President A&R **Renaud Loranger** | Managing Director **Sean Hickey**

Director of Marketing & Business Development **Silvia Pietrosanti**

Head of Catalogue, Product & Curation **Kasper van Kooten**



Sit back and enjoy