



Friday 6th December 2024, 1.15pm

Donglai Shi (Piano)

Donglai Shi holds a Bachelor of Music from the Schulich School of Music of McGill University (Class of 2022), with a double major in piano performance and composition and a minor in orchestral conducting. At this prestigious music school, he studied with Prof. Kyoko Hashimoto in piano, Prof. Denys Bouliane in composition and Prof. Alexis Hauser in orchestral conducting. He is, since September 2023, enrolled in the 2-year Artist Master's program in Advanced Keyboard Studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, studying with Prof. Carole Presland and Prof. Ronan O'Hora, with partial scholarship.

Donglai started learning the piano at the age four and half. Born in Guangzhou, China, he moved to Montreal in 2010 and restarted piano a year later. He began studying with the Armenian pianist Gregory Chaverdian in October 2013 and became national finalist twice in the Canadian Music Competition (2014 and 2015). In 2016, he was accepted by the Marianopolis College and continued his studies with Prof. Hashimoto. During his second year in CEGEP, he won the *Prix d'expression musicale* of Marianopolis and the runner-up of the same year's edition of *CEGEPs en concert*. He received a partial scholarship from the McGill University throughout his studies. He was a finalist in the McGill Concerto Competition (October 2021), performing the 1st Piano Concerto by Chopin.

Strongly interested in chamber music, he reached the final of the McGill Chamber Music Competition twice, in 2019 and 2021. Having participated in numerous music festivals, such as the Orford Music Academy and the IMFAW in Germany, he is also in continuous collaboration with the singer Maxence Ferland, giving a series of piano-voice public concerts across Montreal since 2021. After his graduation from McGill, he kickstarted his career as a soloist by giving a public solo recital at Hawkesbury, Canada, in April 2023.

Donglai has also been interested in composition since the age of 13. In 2017, he received fourth prize of the Golden Key Composition Competition in the senior category and was invited to perform his composition in Vienna the same summer. He studies composition privately with Prof. Denys Bouliane since 2019 and has completed several original works under his tutorship, including 1 woodwind quintet, a set of miniatures for 2 pianos, and a large violin-piano duo. He notably received the reward of “Outstanding achievement in music composition” at his graduation. His music has constant innovations in his harmony, but all closely related to both European and Chinese musical traditions.

Despite the current achievements in piano and composition, he aspires to be an orchestral conductor as his career. He conducted the McGill Beethoven Orchestra during the 2021-22 school year and completed a 1-year part-time course with the Portuguese Maestro Luis Clemente at the Conducting Academy of the Atlantic Coast Orchestra. He is looking to complete another master’s degree in this field after his graduation from the Guildhall School.

