



# St James's Church Piccadilly

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January - 1:10pm

**Ruifan Xuan (piano)**

**Suggested donation £5**

**Franz Schubert (1797-1828)**

Piano Sonata in Bb Major, D.960

*i Molto moderato*

*ii Andante sostenuto*

*iii Scherzo. Allegro vivace -Trio*

*iv Allegro ma non troppo*



St James's Church would welcome a donation of £5, or any amount that you feel able to give. Donations can be made in cash in the basket on your way out, or by tap donation at the machines at our exits.

**Ruifan Xuan** is an International Concert Pianist, recently being awarded the Artist Diploma in Performance under tuition by Professor Gordon Fergus-Thompson from the Royal College of Music. She started her piano life at the age of 4 with her mother Hong Cheng who is a piano professor at the University of Pingdingshan, China and very soon after starting to learn realised her strong passion towards piano performance and the aim to make it her career.

In 2010, Ruifan successfully entered the Junior Department of The China Conservatory of Music and started her study and training as a professional pianist, regularly organising her own solo recitals. Ruifan is a pianist who loves challenge and adventure, often deciding to select unique repertoire in her recitals such as performing the entire set of Chopin Etudes Op.25 in 2012 in her recital. In May 2013, Ruifan won the Gold Medal of the Beijing Piano Festival and was invited to play in the Closing Ceremony of the Festival. In July 2014, Ruifan won the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize of the Vienna IPP International Piano Competition along with being awarded the Special Prize which was to perform the Liszt Piano Concerto with the Estonian Symphony Orchestra in August 2015. In 2015, she was offered a place with high scholarship to study at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire under the Irish Concert Piano David Quigley. Over these four years studying for her undergraduate, Ruifan won the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Prizes in multiple competitions and performed regularly in the Monday Showcase, Lunchtime Concerts and public masterclasses at the conservatoire. Throughout March and April 2019, Ruifan performed her solo themed recital 'The Night of Liszt - Dons, Devils, Dreams' at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and in Manchester, both receiving extremely positive feedback from the audience. In the same year, she recorded and released the album 'Mozart - The Complete Four Hand Piano Sonatas' which can be listened to on Apple Music, Spotify and other platforms.

Ruifan graduated with a 1<sup>st</sup> class degree from the conservatoire in 2019, then began to study for her masters at the Royal College of Music in London under British Concert Pianist Gordon Fergus-Thompson. She was awarded the Master of Music in Performance in 2021 and Artist Diploma in Performance in 2022. During these years in London, as an active soloist, Ruifan continued performing recitals in various churches and other performance venues such as The National Gallery and Austrian Cultural Forum in London.

Since Ruifan graduated, she has been focusing on her professional career as a solo pianist and a Collaborative pianist. In October 2022, Ruifan has received an official work position from the Royal Holloway University of London and started working with the students as their collaborative pianist. In 2023, Ruifan is maintaining being active as a solo pianist and giving recitals frequently in London. The most recent highlight were the whole week performances in St George' Hanover Square in Mayfair from the 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> October and the solo recital in St Mary le Strand Central London on the 30<sup>th</sup> March. Ruifan is currently preparing for her upcoming solo recitals in London in the new season from January 2024 - April 2024, the venues will include The Westminster Music Library, St John the Baptist Church, St Michaels Highgate etc.

Throughout the past 22 years as a pianist, Ruifan has performed regularly in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Cambridge, Vienna, Beijing, Guangzhou, Henan and more. looks forward to continuing her professional career as a musician and a classical concert pianist.