



The annual **Parsons and Poole**  
Concert and Masterclass  
featuring

*Internationally  
acclaimed pianist*

# Yekwon Sunwoo

## **Concert**

Friday, October 27, 2023  
at 7:30 p.m.

## **Masterclass**

Saturday, October 28, 2023  
at 10 a.m.

von Kuster Hall  
Music Building  
Western University

Photo: Young Chul Kim



**Western  
Music**

Don Wright Faculty of Music



## Parsons and Poole Concert Program

Friday, October 27, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.  
von Kuster Hall, Music Building, Western University

*Chaconne for left hand*

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)  
arr. Johannes Brahms  
(1833-1897)

*Partita No. 2 in C minor, BWV 826*

J. S. Bach

Sinfonia  
Allemande  
Courante  
Sarabande  
Rondeau  
Capriccio

*Intermission*

*Variations on a Theme of Corelli*

Sergei Rachmaninoff  
(1873-1943)

*Variations on a Theme of Chopin*

S. Rachmaninoff



## Yekwon Sunwoo, pianist

Yekwon Sunwoo has been hailed for his “*unfailingly consistent excellence*” (International Piano) and celebrated as “*a pianist who commands a comprehensive technical arsenal that allows him to thunder without breaking a sweat*” (Chicago Tribune). A powerful and virtuosic performer, he also, in his own words, “*strives to reach for the truth and pure beauty in music*”.

The first Korean Gold medallist of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, Yekwon’s 23/24 season includes appearances with the Macao, Armenian, Kalamazoo & Victoria Symphonies, Slovak Philharmonic, Orchestre de Chambre de Paris as well as a US tour with the Esme String Quartet.

In previous seasons, he has performed as soloist with the Munich Philharmonic and Valery Gergiev, Royal Danish Orchestra with Thomas Søndergård, Fort Worth and Tucson Symphonies, Washington Chamber Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Houston Symphony, National Orchestra of Belgium, Sendai Philharmonic and Royal Scottish National Orchestra amongst others. Recital appearances include Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, Elbphilharmonie, Salle Cortot, Hong Kong Arts Festival and a tour of Japan. An avid chamber musician, Yekwon’s collaborators include Benjamin Beilman, Linus Roth, Andrei Ioniță, Sebastian

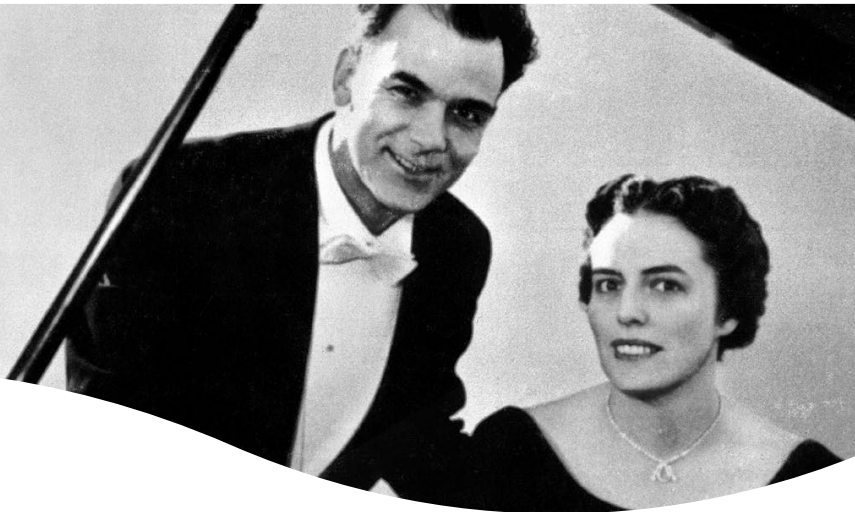
Bohren, Isang Enders, Tobias Feldmann, Gary Hoffman, Anne-Marie McDermott and the Jerusalem and Brentano Quartets. He has also toured Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama with the Kumho Asiana Cultural Foundation and performed at Chamber Music of Lincoln Center’s Inside Chamber Music Lectures.

In addition to the Cliburn Gold Medal, Yekwon won first prizes at the 2015 International German Piano Award, the 2014 Vendome Prize held at the Verbier Festival, the 2013 Sendai International Music Competition and the 2012 William Kapell International Piano Competition.

Born in Anyang, South Korea, Yekwon began learning the piano at the age of 8 and made his recital and orchestral debuts in Seoul at 15. His teachers include Seymour Lipkin, Robert McDonald, Richard Goode and Bernd Goetzke.

In 2017, Decca Gold released Cliburn Gold 2017 two weeks after Yekwon was awarded the Gold Medal and includes his award-winning performances of Ravel’s *La Valse* and Rachmaninov’s *Second Piano Sonata*. In 2020 Yekwon went on to release his first studio album for Decca Universal Music Korea featuring an all-Mozart programme. His second album featuring Rachmaninov solo works was released in September 2023.

# Margaret Parsons and Clifford Poole



Glamorous, talented and world-famous, the husband and wife pianists were not typical professors at Western in the 1950s. Margaret Parsons and Clifford Poole balanced performance tours as a piano duo with teaching and inspiring young musicians. They also recorded their work, created educational materials and started the Gilbert & Sullivan productions which had a long run at Western.

They came to London in 1948 to teach at the Western Ontario Music Conservatory, Music Teachers' College and Department of Music at Western. Already well known, the pair joined the staff two years after Alfred Rose, Gustav Mahler's nephew. During the next few years, the three organizations evolved, each focusing on a different level of music education. As J.R.W. Gwynne-Timothy wrote in his Western's First Century: "The concerts of the well-known piano duo, Clifford Poole and his wife Margaret Parsons, carried far and wide the name of music at Western as public relations emissaries for the college."

A group of alumni who studied with Parsons and Poole created an artist-in-residence program, called the Parsons and Poole Concert and Masterclass Series Fund to carry their names into the future. The project gives students an opportunity to study with musicians who bring the same level of acclaim and expertise as Parsons and Poole.

The benefits of the Parsons and Poole Concert and Masterclass Series Fund will go beyond the music faculty, providing opportunities for interdisciplinary scholarship and cultural enrichment for the community. This is a fitting continuation of the kind of projects the duo undertook while in London. They composed and arranged piano music for young players, and their Parsons-Poole Festival Piano Series and Poole's many pedagogical piano pieces remain favourites. The pair also established a community concert series and toured to many Ontario towns and cities, often with students to showcase their talents and gain experience in performing.

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## Past Parsons and Poole Performers

Louise Bessette, 2022

Jon Kimura Parker, 2021

Marc-André Hamelin, 2020

Stewart Goodyear, 2019

Sara Davis Buechner, 2018

Charles Richard-Hamelin, 2017

John O'Connor, 2016

Anagnoson and Kinton, piano duo, 2015

Angela Hewitt, 2014

Menahem Pressler, 2013

André LaPlante, 2012



## Thank you!

Western University would like to thank the many donors who have supported the Parsons and Poole Concert and Masterclass Series in the Don Wright Faculty of Music.

A special thank you to **Dorothy Hollingsworth, BA'56**, and members of the fundraising committee for creating the Parsons and Poole Concert and Masterclass Series Fund. We are also thankful for the generous bequests from the late Joan Elaine Conner and the late Amelia Marie Cosgrove. It is because of these extraordinary leaders and the generous donors that this wonderful legacy honouring Margaret Parsons and Clifford Poole was established, thus benefitting a new generation of young musicians.

### Parsons and Poole Fundraising Committee

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If you would like to make a gift to the Parsons and Poole Concert and Masterclass Series Fund to continue the work of this tremendous group, please contact the Don Wright Faculty of Music at **519.661.2111 x 85695** or [afishe2@uwo.ca](mailto:afishe2@uwo.ca)

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