



## The Art of noble simplicity and quiet grandeur: Eric Lu

### Schedule and recordings planned for the 2026/2027 Season

Eric Lu belongs to a generation of pianists for whom technical mastery and musical imagination are naturally intertwined. Born in Massachusetts in 1997, the American pianist made a name for himself at an early age. In 2015, at the age of 17, he won fourth prize at the International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, followed in 2018 by first prize at the Leeds International Piano Competition. In 2025, he returned to Warsaw – and won first prize along with the gold medal. The ten years of artistic development between these two Chopin competitions have brought a remarkable maturity to his playing.

What distinguishes Eric Lu at the piano above all is his ability to shape musical time. He allows notes to resonate, gives phrases space to breathe, and is able to generate tension, even in moments of stillness. His playing is characterized by a distinct lyrical quality, a refined sense of tonal color, and a keen attention to the inner movement of a composition. Through this, he combines technical precision with a unique, individual sound-vision.



This quality was particularly evident at the Ruhr Piano Festival in June 2026. In Schumann's "Waldszenen" (Forest Scenes), Lu created an atmosphere in which the individual pieces became small musical tales. The newspaper the "Ruhr Nachrichten" described him as a "poet at the keyboard", an expressive interpreter possessing a level of maturity remarkably profound for his age, and as a "storyteller at the piano." In his performance, "The Prophet Bird" fluttered delicately, while the "Farewell Song" took on a melancholic, lyrical quality. A Schumann album, which will include the "Waldszenen," is scheduled for release by Warner Classics in mid-2027.

The narrative quality is key to Lu's interpretation. He conceives of music in terms of arcs of tension and distinct, characteristic situations. In his hands, a melody acquires its own physiognomy; a harmonic turn can become a significant event, and a rhythmic impulse can shift the direction of an entire musical passage. This attention to detail is coupled with a confident understanding of the broader architectural musical structure.

He has a particularly close connection to Schubert. Lu's recordings of the Sonatas D 959 and D 784 displays the same focus that characterises his concert performances. The BBC Music Magazine selected the recording as an "Instrumental Choice," noting: "Lu's place among today's Schubertians is confirmed." His interpretation of Schubert's Impromptus - released by Warner Classics in early 2026 - was described by Deutschlandradio as a "space in which to lose oneself" and as an "invitation to slow down."

Chopin also serves as a central point of reference for his musical thinking. What interests Lu about Chopin's music is the direct connection between sound and human emotion. He describes Chopin's music as "beautiful, yet also tragic and charming". For him, it is precisely this immediacy, and its proximity to the human psyche, that accounts for its influence worldwide.

His own approach to playing Chopin is marked by a remarkable stylistic flexibility. In the Barcarolle, Lu reveals an exceptionally refined sense of sonority, while the Polonaise in B-flat major unfolds with a dance-like momentum. In the opening movement of the Second Sonata, the music can intensify to the point of becoming wild and unbridled. His interpretation of Chopin navigates these various poles – lyrical introspection, rhythmic energy, and virtuosic intensity – with great naturalness.

Lu's musical development was shaped, among others, by Jonathan Biss and Robert McDonald at the Curtis Institute of Music. He is also influenced by Dang Thai Son, as well as from Mitsuko Uchida and Imogen Cooper. This diverse range of musical influences is reflected in his ability to approach works from different eras, each with its own distinct sonic

language. His artistic universe encompasses the classics, like Mozart and Beethoven, as well as the concerto repertoire of the Romantic period.

The 2026/27 season will see Eric Lu perform at a number of prominent European concert venues. Several of these engagements mark his debut: the Konzerthaus Dortmund in October 2026, the Prinzregententheater in Munich in April 2027, the Kölner Philharmonie, and the Konzerthaus Berlin. He will also make appearances in Leeds, Lyon, Milan, Eindhoven, Antwerp, and Lucerne. Throughout the season, the pianist will be featured both in solo recitals and in collaboration with internationally renowned orchestras.

In terms of orchestral repertoire, Grieg's Piano Concerto takes center stage. Lu performs the piece with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Vasily Petrenko in London, with the Gürzenich Orchestra in Cologne, and with the Konzerthausorchester Berlin under Andris Poga. Also featured are Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20 with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, as well as Saint-Saëns' Second Piano Concerto with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France conducted by Markus Poschner.

This reveals a broad panorama of his pianistic capabilities. Eric Lu possesses the ability to fill a musical space with intense concentration while simultaneously conveying a sense of freedom. His playing can be intimate and introspective, shimmer with lyrical quality, unfold with dance-like energy, or build toward a state of virtuosic ecstasy. The clarity of his musical vision remains paramount throughout: every note is imbued with weight, and every phrase is given a clear direction.

Following his successes in Warsaw and Leeds, this upcoming season will see Eric Lu further expand his international presence while simultaneously refining his interpretive profile. Those who experience him live, encounter a pianist whose particular strength lies in the synthesis of sound, time, and narrative. In his hands, music becomes a resonant space: one where tension arises, not only through movement, but also through attentiveness and silence.

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## Schedule 2026/27 (Selected)

### SOLO RECITALS

- 7. February 2027 – Opéra de Lyon, Lyon**  
(Brahms, Rachmaninov, Chopin, Schumann, Prokofiev)
- 9. February 2027 – Società del Quartetto, Milan**  
(Brahms, Rachmaninov, Chopin, Schumann, Prokofiev)
- 14. February 2027 – Kölner Philharmonie, Cologne**  
(Brahms, Rachmaninov, Chopin, Schumann, Prokofiev)
- 21. February 2027 – Muziekgebouw Eindhoven, Eindhoven**  
(Brahms, Rachmaninov, Chopin, Schumann, Prokofiev)
- 25. February 2027 – De Singel, Antwerpen**  
(Brahms, Rachmaninov, Chopin, Schumann, Prokofiev)
- 16. April 2027 – KKL Lucerne**  
(Brahms, Chopin, Schumann, Prokofiev)
- 19. April 2027 – Prinzregententheater Munich**  
Debut (Brahms, Rachmaninov, Chopin, Schumann, Prokofiev)

### CONCERTS WITH ORCHESTRA

- 16. January 2027 – Royal Festival Hall, London**  
Royal Philharmonic Orchestra · Vasily Petrenko  
Grieg: Piano Concert
- 25. April 2027 – Kölner Philharmonie, Cologne**  
Debut · Gürzenich-Orchester · Julie Røssland  
Grieg: Piano Concert
- 14. + 15. May 2027 – Konzerthaus Berlin**  
Debüt · Konzerthausorchester Berlin · Andris Poga  
Grieg: Piano Concert
- 25. May 2027 – St Martin-in-the-Fields, London**  
Academy of St Martin in the Fields  
Mozart: Piano Concert No. 20
- 10. June 2027 – Maison de la Radio et de la Musique, Paris**  
Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France · Markus Poschner  
Saint-Saëns: Piano Concert No. 2