



**Senior Recital**

**Max Rong, piano**

**April 19, 2026**

**7:30 pm**

**Baldwin Auditorium**

Sonetto 47 del Petrarca

Franz Liszt  
(1811–1886)

Sonetto 104 del Petrarca

Franz Liszt

Sonetto 123 del Petrarca

Franz Liszt

Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18

I. Moderato  
II. Adagio sostenuto  
III. Allegro scherzando

Sergei Rachmaninoff  
(1873–1943)

*Matthew Chen, piano*

*To give each audience member the opportunity to enjoy the performance fully,  
please silence all electronic devices. Flash photography is not permitted.*



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## Program Notes

### **Franz Liszt (1811–1886)**

*Tre Sonetti di Petrarca, S. 270*

These three pieces are inspired by the poetry of Francesco Petrarca. Originally written as tenor songs, they were reworked into piano solos exploring themes of love, longing, and spiritual beauty through lyrical, vocal-style piano writing and rich Romantic color. The opening stanzas of each poem are provided below.

#### **Sonetto 47 del Petrarca**

*Blest be the year, the month, the hour, the day,  
The season and the time, and point of space,  
And blest the beauteous country and the place  
Where first of two bright eyes I felt the sway:*

#### **Sonetto 104 del Petrarca**

*Warfare I cannot wage, yet know not peace;  
I fear, I hope, I burn, I freeze again;  
Mount to the skies, then bow to earth my face;  
Grasp the whole world, yet nothing can obtain.*

#### **Sonetto 123 del Petrarca**

*Yes, I beheld on earth angelic grace,  
And charms divine which mortals rarely see,  
Such as both glad and pain the memory;  
Vain, light, unreal is all else I trace:*

– Translations: John Nott, London 1859

### **Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)**

*Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18*

One of the most beloved works in piano repertoire, this concerto was composed after a period of severe creative depression, with the work dedicated to Nikolai Dahl, the physician who helped Rachmaninoff recover. The concerto reflects this journey from darkness to renewal, opening with somber, tolling chords before blossoming into expansive, lyrical themes.

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