

# Lino Rivera, Pianist

June 14, 2025

House Concerts PDX

## Program

- Chaconne in D minor by J.S. Bach (1685-1750): Transcribed for the piano by Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
- *Lux Aeterna* (2024), Richard Cionco (b. 1964) *Oregon Premier*
- Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture by Piotr I. Tchaikovsky (1840-1893): Transcribed for the piano by Vyacheslav Gryaznov (b. 1982)

## Program Notes:

### Transcriptions

This program features two types of piano transcriptions or piano arrangements:

1. Literal transcription, where the transcriber takes each note of the original work, written for another instrument, and adds an aspect or layer of difficulty for the pianist. The selection presented here is Bach's *Chaconne in D minor for solo violin*, transcribed for the piano by Brahms.
2. Partition or reduction, where the transcriber could not possibly enhance or add notes to the original text, rather the extensive orchestral score is adapted for piano solo in an effective manner idiomatic to the instrument. This is the art of extracting the essence and meaning of the original text, and rewriting the notes for ten fingers. The selection presented here is Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture* for orchestra, transcribed for the piano by the Russian pianist Vyacheslav Gryaznov.

### Richard Cionco's *Lux Aeterna* (2024)

From the composer's program notes: “*Lux Aeterna* finds its origins within the Catholic Mass, meaning Eternal Light. Richard Cionco's *Lux Aeterna* suggests a broader secular message, wherein our world, as we experience it historically and currently, holds forces both evil and good--a timeless narrative. This 12-minute solo piano composition portrays less this human struggle and more the triumph of reason. Somehow, enlightenment always prevails. Compositionally, the music unfolds episodically, utilizing thematic transformation techniques throughout. Two emotionally opposing themes are juxtaposed and transformed texturally and rhythmically, finding resolution in the end.”

# Bios

## Lino Rivera

Lino Rivera is a concert pianist and music professor at Saint Mary's College of California. Come to experience an evening of transcendent piano music. Lino was born in the Philippines and is known for engaging his audiences by bringing the pieces he plays to life through sharing his knowledge and interacting with the audience, breaking the formality of the concert experience.

Lino has performed as a solo recitalist, concerto soloist, chamber musician and accompanist on three continents. He makes it his mission to advocate and premiere contemporary works; to explore and meet the artistic, creative, and technical challenges of piano transcriptions; and to discover and perform obscure solo piano repertoire from throughout the ages. He was a celebrated performer for many years for Composers, Inc., an organization that was based in San Francisco. It was dedicated to promoting works by contemporary American composers.

Lino holds a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from the University of Santo Tomas, a master's from the University of Hawaii, and a doctorate from the University of Maryland. He currently serves as music professor in the Performing Arts Department at Saint Mary's College of California, while maintaining active concert engagements domestically and internationally. During the summer of 2023, Lino was a performing faculty member at the Music & More Summer Music Festival in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He has been invited back for the summer of 2025 and looks forward to participating again.

## Richard Cionco

A Steinway Artist, Richard Cionco is a graduate of the University of Maryland and the Juilliard School of Music. Important solo and chamber music performances include those at Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, the Festival of New American Music in Sacramento, the Samsø Piano Festival in Denmark, the Orfeo Music Festival in Italy, the Sulzbach-Rosenberg Festival in Germany, and the Music & More Summerfest in Bosnia. Mr. Cionco was a teaching fellow for David Dubal at the Juilliard School for four years, and is presently a Professor of Piano at California State University, Sacramento, where he teaches, performs, and composes. His original compositions and arrangements have been heard throughout the U.S., in Brazil, Denmark, Bosnia, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, and recently at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.