



TEACHER RESOURCES

LANG LANG



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THE POPULAR PIANIST

Referred to as “the hottest artist on the classical music planet” by the *New York Times*, Lang Lang is a leading figure in classical music today: he is a pianist, educator, and philanthropist who has been an advocate for the arts in the 21st century. Whether he is playing for billions or at a small public school, he is a master of unique and charismatic delivery as well as communication through his music. He is a popular icon: Lang Lang’s shows sell out all around the world and he is one of the rare classical musicians who gets to play with popular contemporary artists such as Metallica and Pharrell Williams.

Lang Lang started playing piano as early as the age of three, gave his first recital before age of five, entered Beijing’s Central Music Conservatory at age nine, and won First Prize at the International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians at thirteen, regardless of the fact that he was expelled from his piano tutor’s studio for “lacking talent.” He was only 17 when he became an overnight sensation, substituting for André Watts at the Gala of the Century, playing Tchaikovsky’s First Piano Concerto with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Christoph Eschenbach.

Importantly, since 2008, Lang Lang has been a pioneer in music education around the world. He has been supporting young musicians to become tomorrow’s top pianists under the umbrella of the Lang Lang Foundation and was honored as “Messenger of Peace”, focusing on global education, by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 2013. In his upcoming performance at Roy Thomson Hall, Lang Lang will be playing Bach’s *Goldberg Variations*.



“Just love what you are doing, and try to play more.”

- LANG LANG



DID YOU KNOW?

STEINWAY PIANOS NAMED A LINE OF PIANOS AFTER LANG LANG. THE “LANG LANG PIANO” IS ONLY AVAILABLE IN CHINA AND IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR EDUCATIONAL USE.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ◆ What is the “Goldberg Variations”? What is the significance of this piece?
- ◆ What does the term “variation” mean in classical music? What are some of the key qualities of a “variation”?
- ◆ Can you find an example of another variation?
- ◆ What are some other common musical forms in classical music?



FURTHER RESOURCES

OFFICIAL WEBSITE: <https://www.langlangofficial.com/>

TO READ

Lang Lang’s Autobiography: Journey of a Thousand Miles: My Story (Spiegel & Grau, 2009)
For younger readers: Playing with Flying Keys (Laurel Leaf Library, 2010)

TO LEARN

The Lang Lang Piano Method Series (Alfred Publishing Co.)

TO LISTEN

Lang Lang – Piano Book (Deluxe Edition) ([Spotify](#))

SHARE THE MUSIC:

Share the Music, presented by the Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall, aims to enhance and broaden students’ musical horizons by providing tickets to world-class performances and educational pre-concert workshops. Schools and community groups are invited to apply for complimentary *Share the Music* tickets to Lang Lang and other notable performances. For more information, please visit mhrth.com/sharethemusic

CONTACT EDUCATION & OUTREACH TEAM:

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