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**UPCOMING**

JENŐ LISZTES AND YI-FANG HUANG
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

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HANZHI WANG, ACCORDION

In 2017 Hanzhi Wang became the first accordionist to win First Prize at the YCA Susan Wadsworth International Auditions. She made her New York debut in the Peter Marino Concert at Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall and her Washington, DC, debut when she opened the 40th Anniversary YCA Series at the Kennedy Center, co-presented with Washington Performing Arts. She has been named Musical America’s New Artist of the Month and was featured on WQXR’s Young Artists Showcase. Her solo CD, On the Path to H.C. Andersen, was Naxos’s first solo accordion album, and it received critical acclaim, including a nomination for the DR P2 Prize.

Wang has performed at renowned venues and series, including UC Santa Barbara’s Lively Arts, Candlelight Concert Society, La Jolla Music Society, The Morgan Library, and Artist Series Candlelight Concert Society. She has appeared as a soloist with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Il Giardino Armonico with Giovanni Antonini, B’Rock, and Arcangelo; duo recitals with Ksenija Sidorova (accordion), Olga Pashchenko (harpischord / fortepiano), and Omer Klein (piano); and a tour of Australia with cellist Giovanni Sollima. Avital’s new venture, the Between Worlds Ensemble, formed to explore different genres, cultures, and musical worlds, launched with a three–year residency at the Pierre Boulez Saal in Berlin.

Hanzhi Wang earned her bachelor’s degree at the China Central Conservatory of Music and completed her master’s degree and soloist diploma at the Royal Danish Academy of Music under accordion professor Geir Draugsoll.

FOR MORE INFO:
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Avi Avital — a pioneering artist and the first mandolin soloist to be nominated for a classical Grammy — has been compared to guitarist Andres Segovia for his championship of his instrument, and to violinist Jascha Heifetz for his virtuosity. Passionate and charismatic in live performance, he is a driving force behind the reinvigoration of the mandolin repertoire.

Recent highlights include performances of concertos commissioned for Avital by Jennifer Higdon, Anna Clyne, and Giovanni Sollima; tours with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Il Giardino Armonico with Giovanni Antonini, B’Rock, and Arcangelo; duo recitals with cellist Giovanni Sollima. Avital’s new venture, the Between Worlds Ensemble, formed to explore different genres, cultures, and musical worlds, launched with a three–year residency at the Pierre Boulez Saal in Berlin.

Avital’s recent orchestral engagements include the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra dell’accademia nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra, Deutsche Symphonie Orchester Berlin, Orchestre National de Lyon, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, and Norwegian Radio Orchestra. He has commissioned more than 100 works for the mandolin, among them concertos. An exclusive Deutsche Grammophon artist, his sixth album for the label, The Art of the Mandolin (2020), followed Bach (2019), Avital Meets Altdorf (2017), the ECHO Klassik Award–winning Vivaldi (2015), and Between Worlds (2014).

Born in Be’er Sheva in southern Israel, Avital began learning the mandolin at age eight and later studied at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance and Padua’s Conservatorio Cesare Pollini with Ugo Orlandi. He plays a mandolin made by Israeli luthier Arik Kerman.