



Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption  
San Francisco, California

Sunday, August 20, 2023  
4:00 pm

Mario To, Guitar  
Xiyan Wang, Piano

Three Duos for Guitar and Piano      Johann Andreas Amon (1763-1825)  
No.1 Allegro-Andantino-Rondo  
No.2 Allegro-Andantino-Rondo  
No.3 Vivo-Allegretto-Allegro Molto

Arpeggione Sonata, D.821      Franz Schubert (1797-1828)  
first movement

Serenade for Guitar and Strings (arranged for Piano), op.50  
Malcolm Arnold (1921-2006)

Cuatro Piezas Para Dos      Gerald Schwertberger (1941-2014)  
I. Moderato  
II. Lento  
III. Tango  
IV. Vivo

*Suggested Donation \$10.00*  
*(<http://smcsf.org/donate>)*

### **Upcoming Concerts**

- Sunday, August 27, 4:00 pm: Freiburger Mädchenkantorei, Girls Choir of Freiburg Cathedral (Germany), Martina van Lengerich, Director.
- Sunday, September 3, 4:00 pm: Dr. Michal Szostak (Poland), Organ.
- Sunday, September 10, 4:00 pm: Angela Kraft Cross, Organ.
- Sunday, September 17, 4:00 pm: Corina Santos, Violin, with Chia-Lin Yang, Piano.
- Sunday, September 24, 4:00 pm: August Lee, Cello.

**Mario Tsz-chun To** is an avid guitarist and chamber musician. He had worked with internationally acclaimed artists such as guitarist Meng Su, German tenor Knut Schoch, and Hungarian conductor Gergely Madaras. As solo guitarist, Mario won the Tarrega Malaysia International Guitar Festival Competition in 2017 and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts Concerto Competition in 2021. In 2023, he was invited by The Peninsula Guitar Series to give a concert in Palo Alto, CA, premiering his own compositions and arrangements. He also participated as a consortium judge in the prestigious Barlow Prize Competition 2023. He had also been invited by the Hong Kong International Airport, the Asia Society, and the Royal



Commonwealth Society to perform as soloist. As an ensemble player, he collaborated tightly with the Hong Kong New Music Ensemble and was featured as the spotlight artist in the NOVA Ensemble Guitar Project in 2019. He is also an experienced musician in operas; notable productions include the 2019 world-premiere chamber opera "Beauty and Sadness". In 2020, he was invited by the University of Hong Kong to deliver a lecture on the music of Tōru Takemitsu. Mario's achievements have also been widely recognized through his numerous scholarships. He is a three-time recipient of the HSBC Hong Kong Scholarship and an awardee of the prestigious Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme. Other scholarships include the Society of APA Scholarship and the Grantham Scholarship. As teaching assistant, Mario studied guitar performance with Meng Su and composition with Sergio Assad on full scholarship during his master degree study at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, under the guidance of Meng Su and the Academy Director, Prof. Adrian Walter.



**Xiyang Wang**, a native of Guangzhou, China, started her early training at the Xinghai Conservatory of Music affiliated middle school in Guangzhou after receiving several local and regional competition awards at a young age. Upon completion, she was granted full scholarship at Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, where she began studying piano with Thoma J. Lymenstull, Dr. Stephen Perry and Yoshikazu Nagai. She received awards from the PianoArts of Wisconsin National Concerto Competition in 2002, and performed at the Northwestern University of Chicago's "From Vienna to Harlem" Piano Festival in 2003. While studying at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Ms. Wang was a recipient of the Phyllis Wattis Scholarship, the Presser Award, where she earned her BM and MM in piano performance under the tutelage of Mack McCray. Ms. Wang graduated with her Professional Studies Diploma from the conservatory in 2011. After graduation, she was active as a performer in many San Francisco local

events such as the annual Italian Athletic Club celebration, the Outside Land Music Festival and SF Opera Bravo!Club. Ms. Wang has worked closely with young composers and gave many premiere performances. She also collaborated with great artists in recitals such as the principle bassoonist Stephen Paulson and principle trumpet Mark Inouye from the San Francisco Symphony. Ms. Wang continuously has a great passion for performing and teaching. She is currently an accompanist at the Peninsula Girls Chorus, Music Associate at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and faculty at Holy Name Conservatory of Music and Green Octave School of Music. She is also active as a solo pianist and private piano instructor in the Bay Area.