



MINGHUAN XU  
VIOLIN

Both players were terrific. Xu's fiddling featured spotless finger and bow technique, a keen feel for dramatic flair, and a big, sturdy tone free of forcing. Choi was a more than equal partner at the keyboard. His sound was lively and lucid, his digital work was immaculate, and his shaping of material showed insightful articulation of phrase and voicing.

— *New Music Connoisseur*



WINSTON CHOI  
PIANO



DUO  DIORAMA

# Great Lakes

Performing Artist Associates PRESENTS

## DUO DIORAMA

Choi is an intellectual when it comes to music. It manifests itself in his handling of musical forms and of composers' styles and wishes. Xu is spontaneous, rhapsodic and romantic. Together, it is a wonderful dynamic. — *Victor Yampolsky, conductor*

**Duo Diorama** comprises Chinese violinist MingHuan Xu and Canadian pianist Winston Choi. They are compelling and versatile artists who perform in an eclectic mix of musical styles, ranging from the great standard works to the avant-garde. It is a partnership with a startlingly fresh and powerful approach to music for violin and piano.

The duo's name "diorama" defines its artistic ideals. In visual arts, a diorama is a scene or story reproduced on cloth transparencies with various lights shining through to produce changes in effect. In the case of Duo Diorama, the musicians' performances create an illusion of colour and three-dimensionality, transporting the listener to another time and place.

Having performed extensively throughout North America, South America and Europe, Duo Diorama has gained a loyal following wherever they travel to. The duo's recent appearances at the Colours of Music Festival, the Mammoth Lakes Music Festival and the Triada Music Festival were met with critical and audience acclaim. Their South American tour in 2006 included performances at the Festival Musica Nova in Brazil and Festival Encuentros. As the inaugural recipients of the Banff Centre's Rolston Fellowship in Music, they have recently toured throughout Canada, having performed in recital series from coast to coast. In 2006 they gave their successful New York debut at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, as winners of Artists International Presentations' "Special Chamber Music Award." A feature broadcast on the debut was covered by Voice of America, a weekly television program viewed by millions of people in Asia. They also perform frequently on Hapag Lloyd's luxury cruise lines.

Having already commissioned and premiered over 20 works in the last few years, Duo Diorama is a leading proponent of music of living composers. Their insightful and dynamic interpretations of music of living composers has established the duo as a true champion of contemporary music. They are committed to music from today's culture and take a very personal approach to the presentation of these works – both those by the established modern masters and today's emerging young composers. Composers they have commissioned include Marcos Balter, George Flynn, Derek Hurst, Gregory Hutter, Felipe Lara, Jacques Lenot, Andrew List, M. William Karlins, John Melby, Michael Pisaro, Stephen Syverud, Kurt Westerberg, Daniel Weymouth, Amy Williams, Amnon Wolman, Jay Alan Yim, and Mischa Zupko. Their many projects include performing multi-disciplinary works involving electronic media. Duo Diorama is dedicated to performances that emphasize the relevance and vivacity of music of our time.

### MINGHUAN XU VIOLIN WINSTON CHOI PIANO



**MingHuan Xu** performs extensively in recital and with orchestra in China and North America. She is also a highly sought-after chamber musician, having collaborated with the St. Petersburg Quartet, Colin Carr, Eugene Drucker, Ilya Kaler, and Ani Kavafian. She delights audiences wherever she performs with her passion, sensitivity and charisma. Xu was a winner of the Beijing Young Artists Competition and gave her New York debut at age 18 as soloist with the New York Youth Symphony Orchestra. Currently Assistant Professor of Violin at Grand Valley State University, she plays on a 1758 Nicolas Gagliano violin.

**Winston Choi** was Laureate of the 2003 Honens International Piano Competition (Canada) and winner of France's 2002 Concours International de Piano 20e siècle d'Orléans. He regularly performs in recital and with orchestra throughout North America and Europe. Already a prolific recording artist, he can be heard on the Arktos, Crystal, l'Empreinte Digitale, Intrada and QuadroFrame labels. Formerly on the faculties of the Oberlin Conservatory and Bowling Green University, he is Assistant Professor and Head of Piano at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University.

Great Lakes Performing Artist Associates

Terry Farmer, Executive Director | 1100 North Main Street, Suite 207 | Ann Arbor, MI 48104 | 734-665-4029 | [www.greatlakespaa.org](http://www.greatlakespaa.org) | [director@greatlakespaa.org](mailto:director@greatlakespaa.org)