

WATERCOLOR
SHEN LU
PIANO

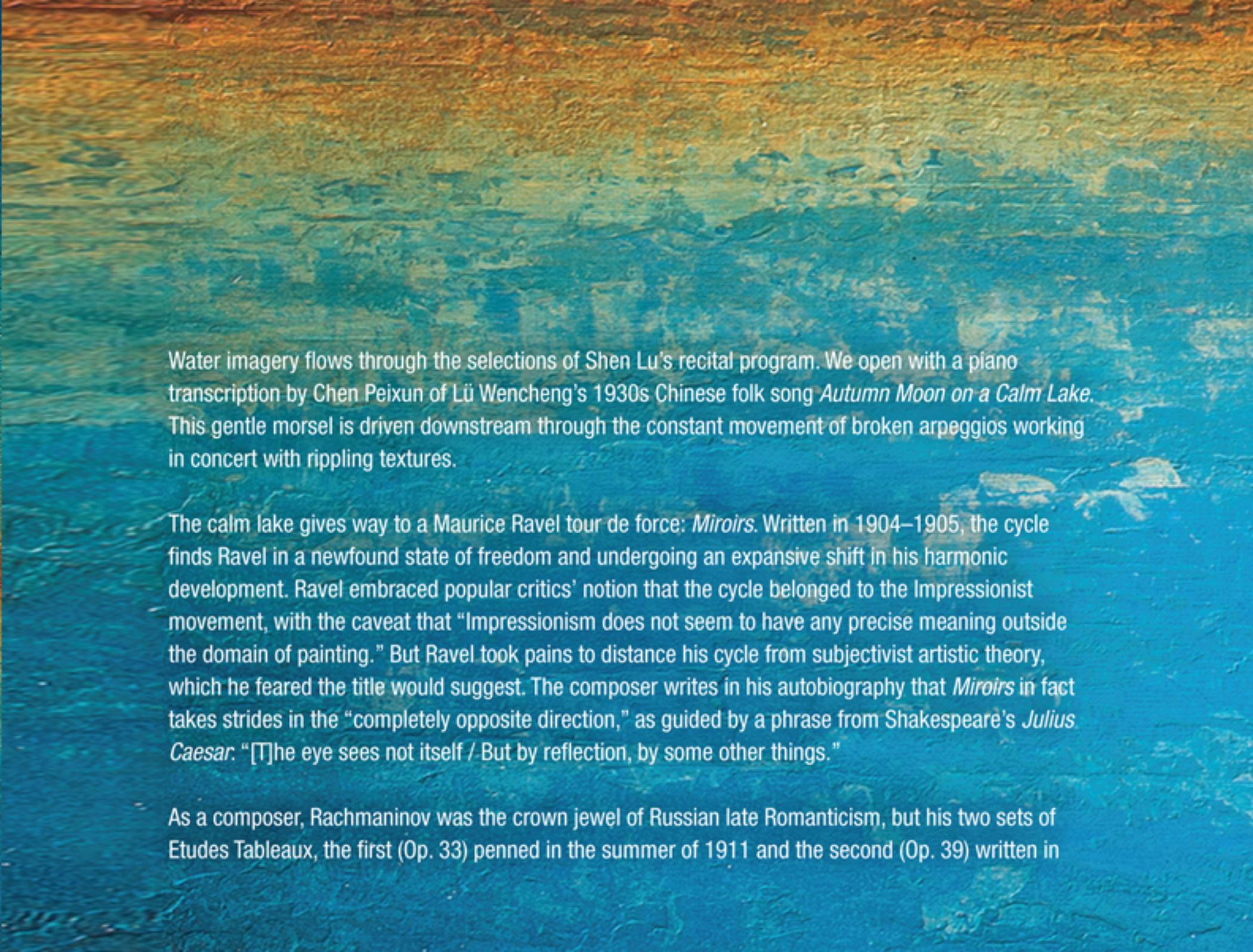


STEINWAY & SONS

SHEN LU

A native of Jiangsu, China, Shen Lu has performed concerts at Beijing's Central Conservatory Music Hall, Weill Recital Hall and Carnegie Hall in New York, Jordan Hall in Boston, Severance Hall in Cleveland, The Kennedy Center in Washington DC, The County Museum of Art in Los Angeles, the Seymour Centre in Sydney, and the National Concert Hall in Dublin. His gold prize at the 2014 Hilton Head International Piano competition includes this collaboration with Steinway & Sons – a debut recording from an exceptional young artist. He was a prize winner at the 59th Wideman, the 4th Campillos, the 2nd Florida, and the 25th Ferrol International Piano Competitions, and won best French music prize for Ravel's *Miroirs* at the 2015 Dublin International Piano Competition. He earned his Bachelor's Degree at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing under Wu Ying, and his Master's and Graduate Diploma from the New England Conservatory in Boston under Alexander Korsantia. Mr. Shen's other teachers included Li Siying, Huang Tiandong, Chen Zihua, and his father Shen Guofu. He is currently studying with HaeSun Paik at the Cleveland Institute of Music for his Artist Diploma Degree.





Water imagery flows through the selections of Shen Lu's recital program. We open with a piano transcription by Chen Peixun of Lü Wencheng's 1930s Chinese folk song *Autumn Moon on a Calm Lake*. This gentle morsel is driven downstream through the constant movement of broken arpeggios working in concert with rippling textures.

The calm lake gives way to a Maurice Ravel tour de force: *Miroirs*. Written in 1904–1905, the cycle finds Ravel in a newfound state of freedom and undergoing an expansive shift in his harmonic development. Ravel embraced popular critics' notion that the cycle belonged to the Impressionist movement, with the caveat that "Impressionism does not seem to have any precise meaning outside the domain of painting." But Ravel took pains to distance his cycle from subjectivist artistic theory, which he feared the title would suggest. The composer writes in his autobiography that *Miroirs* in fact takes strides in the "completely opposite direction," as guided by a phrase from Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*: "[T]he eye sees not itself / But by reflection, by some other things."

As a composer, Rachmaninov was the crown jewel of Russian late Romanticism, but his two sets of *Etudes Tableaux*, the first (Op. 33) penned in the summer of 1911 and the second (Op. 39) written in

1917, have a raw, expressive Eastern European flavor to them. A study in musical moods, the Etudes Tableaux are “picture studies” of the highest order, running the gamut of human expression, and, more practically speaking, serving Rachmaninov as handy virtuoso pieces that the composer himself could perform while on tour. The Etudes Tableaux were among the last written — by Rachmaninov or anyone — in the composer–soloist tradition.

Tan Dun's *Eight Memories in Watercolor* (1979) was conceived when the composer left Hunan to study at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing — his Opus 1. “The Cultural Revolution had just ended,” notes Tan Dun. “China had just opened its doors, and I was immersed in studying Western classical and modern music but was also homesick. I longed for folksongs and savored the memories of my childhood. Therefore, I wrote my first piano work as a diary of longing.” Four of the pieces (2, 3, 4, 8) are based on the composer's favorite folksongs from his Hunan childhood. The cycle is in the Western moments musicaux tradition, but miraculously weds traditional Chinese music and philosophy with Western composition technique.

— Ben Finane

WATERCOLOR

was recorded March 2 – 4, 2015

at Sono Luminus Studios in Boyce, Virginia.

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Engineer: Daniel Shores

Equipment: Metric Halo ULN-8, DPA 4006 microphones

Executive Producers: Eric Feidner, Jon Feidner

Painting: Fair weather Huron (dusk) | © nik harron | nikharron.com

Design: Cover to Cover Design, Anilda Carrasquillo

Piano: Steinway Model D #590904 (New York)

Piano Technician: John Veitch

WATERCOLOR

SHEN LU, PIANO



CHEN PEIXUN

1 Autumn Moon
on a Calm Lake

4:11

MAURICE RAVEL

Miroirs

2 Noctuelles

4:46

3 Oiseaux Tristes

3:45

4 Une barque sur l'océan

6:47

5 Alborado del gracioso

6:05

6 La vallée des cloches

5:03

SERGEI RACHMANINOV

Etudes Tableaux, Op. 33

7 No. 1 in F minor

2:42

8 No. 2 in C major

2:21

9 No. 3 in C minor

5:04

10 No. 4 in D minor

2:58

11 No. 5 in E flat minor

1:46

12 No. 6 in E flat major

1:52

13 No. 7 in G minor

3:39

14 No. 8 in C sharp minor

2:32

TAN DUN

Eight Memories in Watercolor, Op. 1

15 1. Missing Moon

2:41

16 2. Staccato Beans

1:24

17 3. Herdboy's Song

1:44

18 4. Blue Nun

1:14

19 5. Red Wilderness

1:46

20 6. Ancient Burial

1:56

21 7. Floating Clouds

1:50

22 8. Sunrain

1:22

Playing Time: 67:32



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