

ONWARD

DEBUSSY

BACH

SCHUMANN

SCHUBERT

ELLIOT WUU
PIANO



STEINWAY & SONS

ONWARD

The four works on this album embark on a journey: from innocence and nostalgia, to longing and farewell, through dreams and illusions, and the endeavors of the human spirit in its restless striving. Each piece captures a stage of life's unfolding and reflects

the inner journeys we all take as we move onward.

Claude Debussy's *Suite Bergamasque* (1890, revised 1905) opens the album with music that balances reflection and playfulness. Inspired by 18th-century dance forms, the suite blends elegance with the shimmering harmonies of Impressionism. Its most famous movement, *Clair de lune*, offers a dreamlike pause, pondering the night sky in a way that feels both universal and deeply personal.

Johann Sebastian Bach's *Capriccio on the Departure of His Beloved Brother* (1704) offers a more literal journey. Composed when Bach was still a teenager, the piece narrates a farewell, moving from his family and friends' attempts to dissuade him, through their lament, and finally to a joyful and accepting send-off. Its youthful invention suggests that every departure is also the beginning of something new, a forward step into the unknown.

Robert Schumann's *Kinderszenen* (Scenes from Childhood, 1838) turns inward, capturing fleeting moments of innocence and wonder. These short character pieces were not written for children but instead present an adult's reflections on childhood. They reveal glimpses of clarity, joy, and unguarded emotion that so often fade as we grow older.

Franz Schubert's *Wanderer Fantasy* (1822) brings the program to its most expansive and dramatic scale. Its central theme, drawn from Schubert's song *Der Wanderer* (1816), returns throughout the four interconnected movements, each time transformed as if by the journey itself. The music captures the restless spirit of the wanderer, carrying urgency, longing, and a sense of self-discovery. The Fantasy embodies both the perseverance and resilience of the human spirit, concluding not in resolution but with a triumph that carries the journey forward.

Together, these works trace a path of memory, departure, innocence, and ambition. *Onward* is both title and invitation, a reminder to embrace change, to carry the past into the future with gratitude, and to keep moving forward with curiosity and hope.

- Elliot Wu



ELLIOT WUU

Praised for his “power, speed, and finesse of artists twice his age” (Tribune Star), Young Steinway Artist Elliot Wu captivates audiences with his vibrant tone and emotional depth. Named a 2018 Gilmore Young Artist, Elliot has garnered top prizes in international competitions, including the Hilton Head International Piano Competition and the Yamaha and Bösendorfer USASU International Piano Competition. Elliot was named a laureate of the 2025 American Piano Awards, recognizing him as one of today’s leading young pianists.

Elliot has performed in major venues across the US, France, Italy, Germany, the UK, Poland, Romania, and China. His notable appearances include performances at Carnegie Hall, the United Nations Headquarters, WQXR’s Greene Space in New York, and Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris. Other notable concert performances include appearances at the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, Music@Menlo, Aspen Festival, Ravinia Festival, La Jolla SummerFest, and many others. Additionally, he has been featured on WQXR’s *Young Artists Showcase*, *Performance Today* and NPR’s *From the Top*.

Born in Fremont, California, Elliot attended the San Francisco Conservatory Pre-College in high school. He went on to earn both his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from The Juilliard School, where he studied with Robert McDonald as a recipient of the Kovner Fellowship.

CLAUDE DEBUSSY

Suite bergamasque

- 1 I. Prelude 4:27
- 2 II. Menuet 4:19
- 3 III. Clair de lune 5:45
- 4 IV. Passepied 3:37

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

Capriccio in B flat major,
BWV 992

- 5 I. Adagio 2:10
- 6 II. Andante 1:11
- 7 III. Adagissimo 3:08
- 8 IV. Andante con moto 0:28
- 9 V. Aria di Postiglione 1:09
- 10 VI. Fuga all'imitazione
die Posta 2:06

ROBERT SCHUMANN

Kinderszenen, Op. 15

- 11 I. Von fremden Landern und
Menschen 1:43
- 12 II. Curiose Geschichte 1:09
- 13 III. Hasche-Mann 0:31
- 14 IV. Bittendes Kind 0:50
- 15 V. Gluckes genug 1:06
- 16 VI. Wichtige Begebenheit 0:54
- 17 VII. Traumerei 2:47
- 18 VIII. Am Camin 0:55
- 19 IX. Ritter vom Steckenpferd 0:37
- 20 X. Fast zu ernst 1:42
- 21 XI. Furchtenmachen 1:37
- 22 XII. Kind im Einschlummern 2:10
- 23 XIII. Der Dichter spricht 2:08

FRANZ SCHUBERT

Fantasie in C major, D 760

“Wanderer”

- 24 I. Allegro con fuoco 5:50
- 25 II. Adagio 6:54
- 26 III. Presto 5:04
- 27 IV. Allegro 3:31

Playing Time: 68:01

ONWARD

Recorded October 2 & 4, 2024 at Sono Luminus Studios, Boyce, Virginia.

Producer: Daniel Shores

Engineer: Joshua Frey

Mixing and Mastering: Daniel Shores

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ELLIOT WUU

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CLAUDE DEBUSSY

1-4 Suite bergamasque 18:08

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

5-10 Capriccio in B flat major, BWV 992 10:12

ROBERT SCHUMANN

11-23 Kinderszenen, Op. 15 18:09

FRANZ SCHUBERT

24-27 Fantasie in C major, D 760 "Wanderer" 21:19

Playing Time: 68:01



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