

**arts** scottsdale news release  
scottsdale center for the performing arts

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BOX OFFICE & TICKETS: 480-499-TKTS (8587)

## **GOLD MEDAL-WINNING PIANIST RETURNS TO SCOTTSDALE**



Seong-Jin Cho

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona — Rising piano superstar Seong-Jin Cho will perform music of Beethoven, Debussy and Chopin on Friday, March 2, at 8 p.m., at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. The solo recital follows Cho's well-received appearance at the Center last season with the Warsaw Philharmonic.

Cho shot to fame in October 2015 when the South Korea-born pianist won gold at Warsaw's International Frédéric Chopin Piano Competition. In a review of Cho's winning performance at the competition, a critic for *The Telegraph* of London called Cho “unequivocally brilliant.” Other critics hailed the playing on his subsequent CD as “mature, touching and passionate” (*The Guardian*), and observed that he “overcomes the

thorniest technical problems easily” (*NYConcertReview.com*). Cho's gold medal generated a series of concert and recital appearances, including a Carnegie Hall debut last year. He has appeared or will appear in concert in Seoul, Tokyo, Amsterdam, Paris, Berlin, London, St. Petersburg, Lucerne, Edinburgh, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

Born in 1994 in Seoul, Seong-Jin Cho started learning the piano at age 6 and gave his first public recital at age 11. In 2009, he became the youngest-ever winner of Japan’s Hamamatsu International Piano Competition. In 2011, he won third prize at the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow at the age of 17. In 2012, he moved to Paris to study with Michel Béroff at the Paris Conservatoire and he graduated in 2015. He is now based in Berlin.

Cho will open his program with two sonatas by Ludwig van Beethoven: Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op. 13, the “Pathétique”; and Sonata No. 30 in E major, Op. 109. Beethoven composed the first of these when he was 27. It sold well and helped cement his emerging reputation as an heir to Mozart and Haydn.

Dedicated to his friend and patron, Karl Alois, Prince Lichnowsky, it was given the label “Pathétique” by Beethoven’s publisher in observation of the middle movement’s plaintive character. Sonata No. 30 came at the opposite end of the composer’s career, when he was almost deaf and undergoing stylistic changes that led to his final works. More than half of the sonata consists of a massive set of variations in the last movement.

Book Two of Claude Debussy’s *Images* and Chopin’s Sonata No. 3 in B Minor, Op. 58, will comprise Cho’s second half of the program.

In 1905 and 1907, Debussy composed two books of three pieces each, called *Images*. Meant as musical tone-painting, the pieces are sonically evocative of their titles. The three pieces of Book Two are: *Cloches à travers les feuilles* (Bells Through the Leaves); *Et la lune descend sur le temple qui fut* (And the moon descends over the temple ruins); and *Poissons d’or* (Goldfish).

Chopin’s third and final piano sonata is an expansive, four-movement work that encompasses a substantial first movement, a flashing scherzo, a lyrical and meditative *Largo* and a Herculean finale. The large-view shape of the score transcends the composer’s reputation as a miniaturist in the preludes, mazurkas and other short pieces.

Tickets:

\$49 (M \$41) / \$39 / \$29

Free for eligible veterans, students and teachers. Patrons 29 and under, 50 percent off.

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## **SCOTTSDALE ARTS**

Through its partnership with the City of Scottsdale, the nonprofit Scottsdale Arts (formerly known as Scottsdale Cultural Council) creates diverse, inspired arts experiences and educational opportunities that foster active, lifelong community engagement with the arts. Since its founding in 1987, Scottsdale Arts has grown into a regionally and nationally significant, multi-disciplinary arts organization offering an exceptional variety of programs through three acclaimed divisions – Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA) and Scottsdale Public Art – serving more than 400,000 participants annually.

## **SCOTTSDALE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

Since 1975, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts has provided a stage for a wide range of artists and genres, creating shared, inspiring experiences for the community that celebrate artistic excellence and cultural

awareness. Today one of the premier performing-arts halls in the western United States, the Center presents a diverse season of music, dance, theater, comedy and film from around the world.

### **LOCATION AND PARKING**

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts is located at 7380 E. Second St. in downtown Scottsdale. Free parking is available in the public parking garage located to the west of Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts on Wells Fargo Avenue. Additional free parking is available at the Old Town Parking Corral at East Second Street and Brown Avenue and at the Civic Center Library parking garage located on Drinkwater Boulevard at East Second Street.

### **ACCESSIBILITY**

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts offers performance accommodations to enhance audience members' experience, including: American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation or live audio description with two weeks advance notice. Assistive-listening devices and wheelchair seating are also available. Visit [www.ScottsdalePerformingArts.org/visit/accessibility/](http://www.ScottsdalePerformingArts.org/visit/accessibility/) or contact the Member and Patron Services Box Office at 480-499-TKTS (8587) [TDD: 480-874-4694] for further details. Please inquire about services when ordering tickets.

### **TICKET DISCOUNTS**

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts offers a variety of ticket discounts for Scottsdale Arts members at the Friends level and above, groups of 10 or more and those purchasing packages to four or more events in one order. The Center provides free tickets to selected events for eligible students, teachers and active-duty military and veterans, and 50 percent off tickets to selected events for patrons 29 and under. Visit [www.ScottsdalePerformingArts.org/visit/tickets-discounts/](http://www.ScottsdalePerformingArts.org/visit/tickets-discounts/) or call 480-499-TKTS (8587) for more information.

### **THE STORE**

The award-winning Store at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts supports the mission and diverse programs of the nonprofit Scottsdale Arts. The Store's unique selection of merchandise includes artist-made jewelry, stylish furnishings for home and office, unique creations by Arizona artists, fair-trade and upcycled/recycled global crafts, music, books, greeting cards and imaginative toys. Purchases are tax free, and members receive a 10 percent discount. Gift wrapping and shipping are also available. The Store is open seven days a week: Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon – 5 p.m.; and throughout most evening events. Phone: 480-874-4644.

### **HOW TO REACH US**

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts  
7380 E. Second St.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
[www.ScottsdalePerformingArts.org](http://www.ScottsdalePerformingArts.org)  
480-499-TKTS (8587)