

Pianists Stephanie Ho and Saar Ahuvia collaborate as DUO **Stephanie and Saar** in dazzling performances filled with visceral excitement, elegance and artistic vision.

Recent performances include their Lincoln Center debut with Igor Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*; collaboration with Philadelphia's Orchestra 2001 in a complete performance of Frank Zappa's *The Yellow Shark* and Symphony Space's *Wall to Wall Bernstein*, a marathon celebration of Leonard Bernstein's 100th anniversary.

The duo's 2017 recording of Johann Sebastian Bach's *The Art of Fugue* has garnered tremendous praise; Stephanie and Saar toured *The Art of Fugue* extensively with stops in Portland, Sacramento, Phoenix, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York, among others. Their recording of György Kurtág's four hand transcription of Bach's *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit* (God's Time is the Very Best of Times) was featured on the soundtrack of the documentary film *Red Trees. Beethoven Dialogues*, their 2014 album featuring Beethoven Quartets Op. 18 Nos. 1, 4 and 6 in rarely heard four hand arrangements, was chosen as *Album of the Week* on New York Public Radio WQXR.

Stephanie and Saar are the artistic directors of *Makrokosmos Project*, a contemporary music festival in Portland, Oregon featuring American music and Oregon-based musicians. Highlights of the 2015 inaugural festival include standing-room performances of George Crumb's complete *Makrokosmos I & II* and *Celestial Mechanics*. Oregon Arts Watch frankly states "It was one of 2015's peak Oregon musical moments." Makrokosmos Project has since presented the entirety of Crumb's Makrokosmos I-IV and premiered works by Gerald Levinson, Branig Howard and Gregory Hutter.

Other peak performance include collaborations with New World Symphony's Percussion Consort; multiple projects with Miami's Dranoff Two Piano Foundation including the world premiere of *Fantasia de Très Mondos* by Cuban-American jazz pianist Martin Bejerano; Sarajevo Chamber Music Festival; Washington DC's Smithsonian Museum of American Art and sold-out performances at New York City's *(le) poisson rouge*.

While pursuing graduate studies at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, Stephanie and Saar were inspired by Leon Fleisher to explore the Beethoven string quartets in a duo piano setting. The duo, who are married to each other, reside in New York City. Outdoor enthusiasts, they recently completed the 93-mile Wonderland Trail around Mount Rainier.