

Leonard Fu, Biography

Hailed by famous German music critic Harald Eggebrecht for playing “with superior awareness of form, structure, and sound”, Chinese-German violinist Leonard Fu’s love for music began at an early age when his two older sisters were practicing the violin and the piano and Fu started imitating the melodies on the piano by ear. Despite being non-musicians themselves his parents saw his potential and enabled him his first piano lesson at age four and his first violin lesson at age seven which later became his main instrument.

Since then, Fu has performed on three different continents in several countries, amongst them Germany, China, Russia, the United States, Italy, and Spain. He is an active soloist and chamber musician and has played concerts with major orchestras such as the Bremer Kammerphilharmonie, the Hamburger Symphoniker, and the NDR Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, and collaborated with conductors such as Alexander Shelley and Andrew Manze. Chamber partners have been Manuel Fischer-Dieskau, Gregor Horsch, Peijun Xu, Tanja Becker-Bender, Jean-Michel Fonteneau, Natasha Brofsky, Donald and Vivian Weilerstein, etc.

In his young career he has already been laureate of major competitions, such as the International Violin Competition Andrea Postacchini in Fermo, Italy, the International Violin Competition Rodolfo Lipizer in Gorizia, Italy, and the TONALi 2014 Grand Prix in Hamburg, Germany, as well as most recently the Joseph Joachim International Violin Competition in Hannover, Germany.

With his own string quartet, the Tempest String Quartet, he has won the ENKOR International Chamber Music Competition as well as the New England Conservatory Honor’s Ensemble Award.

Fu has special interest in the performance of Old Music and is currently involved in the founding process of the NEC Baroque Ensemble, an ensemble that focuses on making Historically Informed Performances by students of the Conservatory. Furthermore, He has premiered contemporary pieces by M. Sadowski, T. Skweres, L. Ma, C. Chen, and S. Bahr. He’s an advocate for contemporary music and has received acknowledgment for performances of A. Schnittke’s Violin Sonata, L. Berio’s Sequenza VIII for Violin solo, W. Lutoslawski’s Partita for Violin and Piano, and M. Davidovsky’s String Quartet No. 4.

Outside of Music, Fu has various interests including politics, philosophy, languages, and sciences. Graduating as the Valedictorian from a science and sport focused high school, he is a scholar of the prestigious Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes which promotes and supports Germany’s best students across all disciplines and subjects. He has participated at events such as the Global Economic Symposium in Kiel, Germany, and the Model United Nations, a simulation of the United Nations for students until the age of 21.

Fu has studied with Lara Lev and Tanja Becker-Bender in Germany and is currently doing his Undergraduate Studies at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, MA, in the studio of famous chamber musician and pedagogue Donald Weilerstein, long-time first violinist of the Cleveland Quartet. He is playing on a “Carlo Ferdinando Landolfi, Milan, 1750-1775” loan from the instruments fund of the Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben in Hamburg, Germany. He is recipient of the foreign exchange scholarship of the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes as well as the Dorothy Richard Starling Violin Scholarship to enable his studies at NEC in Boston.