



DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 • 8:00 PM

HPC PRESENTS:
JON NAKAMATSU,
PIANO

Murray and Michele Allen Recital Hall
2330 North Halsted Street • Chicago

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PROGRAM

J. S. Bach (1685–1750); trans. F. Busoni

Two Chorale Preludes (for organ transcribed for piano solo)

Ich ruf zu dir, Herr

Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

Sonata in D Major, Opus 28 "Pastorale"

Allegro

Andante

Scherzo: Allegro vivace; Trio

Rondo: Allegro ma non troppo

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

Fantasy in F-sharp Minor, Opus 28

- Intermission -

Franz Liszt (1811–1886)

Three Petrarch Sonnets (from *Années del pèlerinage, II—Italie*)

Sonetto 47 del Petrarca

Sonetto 104 del Petrarca

Sonetto 123 del Petrarca

Frédéric Chopin (1810–1849)

Andante spianato and Grande polonaise brillante, Opus 22

Mr. Nakamatsu's appearance is presented by the
Williams Visiting Artist Fund.

As a courtesy to those around you, please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices. Flash photography is not permitted.

BIOGRAPHIES

Now in his third decade of touring worldwide, American pianist **Jon Nakamatsu** continues to draw critical and public acclaim for his intensity, elegance and electrifying solo, concerto and chamber music performances. Catapulted to international attention in 1997 as the Gold Medalist of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition—the only American to achieve this distinction since 1981—Mr. Nakamatsu subsequently developed a multi-faceted career that encompasses recording, education, arts administration and public speaking in addition to his vast concert schedule.

Mr. Nakamatsu has been a guest soloist with over 150 orchestras worldwide, including those of Baltimore, Berlin, Boston, Cincinnati, Dallas, Detroit, Florence, Los Angeles, Milan, Rochester, San Francisco, Seattle, Tokyo and Vancouver. He has worked with such esteemed conductors as Marin Alsop, Sergiu Comissiona, James Conlon, Philippe Entremont, Hans Graf, Marek Janowski, Raymond Leppard, Gerard Schwarz, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Osmo Vänskä.

As a recitalist, Mr. Nakamatsu has appeared in New York City's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, Washington DC's Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Musée d'Orsay and the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris and in major centers such as Boston, Chicago, Houston, London, Milan, Munich, Prague, Singapore, Tokyo, Warsaw and Zurich. In Beijing he has been heard at the Theater of the Forbidden City, the Great Hall of the People, China Conservatory, and the National Centre for the Performing Arts. His numerous summer engagements included appearances at the Aspen, Tanglewood, Ravinia, Caramoor, Vail, Wolftrap, Colorado, Brevard, Britt, Colorado College, Evian, Interlochen, Klavierfestival Ruhr, Santa Fe and Sun Valley festivals. In 2025 he participated in an extended residency at the Bowdoin Festival in Maine and returned to the Chautauqua Institution in New York where he served as Artist in Residence from 2018 to 2023. In 2025 Mr. Nakamatsu served on the juries of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and the United States Chopin Piano Competition.

Post-Pandemic, Mr. Nakamatsu returned to live performances in 2021 throughout the United States and in Europe. Between 2020 and the spring of 2021, he was engaged in a myriad of online events including recording, masterclasses and virtual interviews and lectures for organizations such as the Chautauqua Institution Piano Festival, Colorado College Summer Music Festival, Boston University's Tanglewood Institute, the Van Cliburn Foundation and the Chopin Foundation of the United States. In collaboration with clarinetist Jon Manasse, Mr. Nakamatsu also produced and curated an online series of interviews and historical performances taken from the archives of the Cape Cod Chamber Music Festival, where he and Mr. Manasse have served as Artistic Directors since 2007.

With clarinetist Jon Manasse, Mr. Nakamatsu tours as a member of the Manasse/Nakamatsu Duo. Following its Boston debut in 2004, the Duo released its first CD for harmonia mundi usa (Brahms Sonatas for Clarinet and Piano) which received the highest praise from The New York Times Classical Music Editor James Oestreich, who named it among the “Best of the Year” for 2008. A frequent chamber musician, Mr. Nakamatsu has collaborated repeatedly with ensembles such as the Emerson, Escher, Jupiter, Miró, Modigliani, Prazak, St. Lawrence, Tokyo and Ying string quartets, the Imani Winds and the Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet with whom he made multiple tours beginning in 2000.

Mr. Nakamatsu’s 13 CDs recorded for harmonia mundi usa have garnered extraordinary critical praise. An all-Gershwin recording with Jeff Tyzik and the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra featuring Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue and Concerto in F remained in the top echelons of Billboard’s classical charts for over six months. Other acclaimed discs include the recording premiere of Lukas Foss’ first Piano Concerto with Carl St. Clair and the Pacific Symphony, the Brahms Piano Quintet with the Tokyo String Quartet in the quartet’s final recording as an ensemble, and a solo recording including Robert Schumann’s Second Piano Sonata whose YouTube posting has garnered over 800K hits.

Mr. Nakamatsu has been profiled extensively in print, radio, television and online. He has appeared on CBS Sunday Morning, in Readers Digest magazine and recently on Live from Here! with Chris Thile. In 1999, Mr. Nakamatsu performed at the White House at the special invitation of President and Mrs. Clinton. He has also performed for the United States Conference of Mayors in San Francisco and in 2001 was the featured guest artist during the opening and dedication of the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II in Washington DC.

A former high school teacher of German with no formal conservatory training, Mr. Nakamatsu studied privately with Marina Derryberry for over 20 years beginning at the age of six; worked with Karl Ulrich Schnabel since the age of 9; and trained for 10 years in composition, theory and orchestration with Dr. Leonard Stein of the University of Southern California’s Schoenberg Institute. Mr. Nakamatsu holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Stanford University in German Studies and secondary education. In 2015, he joined the piano faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and in 2023 the Department of Music at Stanford University as a Visiting Artist. He lives in the Bay Area with his wife Kathy and son Gavin.

TICKETS AND PATRON SERVICES

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Food and Beverage: While drinks, with lids, are allowed in performance spaces, food is never allowed.

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Late Seating: Late seating breaks usually occur after the first piece on the program or at intermission in order to minimize disturbances to other audience members and those performing on stage. Late patrons will be seated at appropriate breaks at the discretion of the house management staff.

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Phones and Paging Devices: All electronic devices—including cellular phones, pagers and wristwatch alarms—should be on silent while in any concert or recital hall.

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February 18 • 7:00 P.M.
Allen Recital Hall
Bassoon Studio Recital

February 19 • 7:00 P.M.
Allen Recital Hall
DePaul Composers Forum

February 22 • 7:00 P.M.
Allen Recital Hall
Scott Ramsay Studio Recital

February 26 • 8:00 P.M.
Gannon Concert Hall
DePaul Ensemble 20+

February 28 • 3:00 P.M.
Allen Recital Hall
DePaul Trombone Choir

February 28 • 8:00 P.M.
Gannon Concert Hall
DePaul Chamber & Concert Choirs

March 3 • 7:00 P.M.
Allen Recital Hall
DePaul String Chamber Showcase I

March 4 • 8:00 P.M.
Gannon Concert Hall
DePaul Concert Orchestra

March 5 • 7:00 P.M.
Dempsey Corboy Jazz Hall
DePaul Jazz Combos I

March 5 • 8:00 P.M.
Gannon Concert Hall
DePaul Wind Symphony

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

February 21 • 7:00 P.M.
Allen Recital Hall
Ann Marie Brink, viola, Jason Moy, harpsichord, & John Milbauer, piano

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