

**Bear Valley Music Festival**  
July 25 – August 9, 2009  
P.O. Box 5068 – Bear Valley CA 95223  
Caroline Schirato, Executive Director  
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**24-YEAR-OLD AWARD WINNING PIANO VIRTUOSO  
IN GALLO CENTER RECITAL AUGUST 3**

Di Wu, a 24-year-old award winning and critically acclaimed piano virtuoso, will give a recital in Modesto's Gallo Center for the Arts on Monday, August 3 at 7 p.m.

In the performance, which is presented in cooperation with the Bear Valley Music Festival, she will play Clara Schumann's *Mazurka from Soirées Musicales, Op. 6*, Richard Schumann's *Davidsbündlertänze, Op. 6*, Joseph-Maurice Ravel's *Miroirs*, and Gounod-Liszt's *Concert Waltz from "Faust"*.

Maestro Carter Nice, who has been the Music Director of the festival for 26 years, recently observed Wu when she was a finalist for the prestigious Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and was very impressed.

"In my view, she was the finest performer in a very talented field and I am pleased that she has accepted our invitation to be part of this year's festival and to play this recital."

Di Wu was born in China and made her professional debut at age 14 with the Beijing Philharmonic. Since then, she has performed with various US orchestras, including the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the National

Symphony Orchestra (at the Kennedy Center), the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and twice with the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall.

After performing in China, Wu moved to the United States in 1999 to study with Zenon Fishbein at the Manhattan School of Music. She relocated to Philadelphia a year later to study with Gary Graffman at the Curtis Institute of Music. After completing her undergraduate education at the Curtis, she returned to New York City to earn her master of arts at The Juilliard School of Music under Dr. Yoheved Kaplinsky, and is now currently enrolled in Juilliard's renowned Artist Diploma program under the guidance of Joseph Kalichstein and Robert McDonald.

In addition to being a Van Cliburn finalist, Wu was the 2007 winner the Astral National Audition, and is now represented by Astral Artists. She also won the 2000 Missouri Southern International Piano Competition, the 2005 Hilton Head International Piano Competition, and the 2008 Juilliard William Petschek Piano Debut Recital Award.

Last year she was singled out in the 2008 Musical America feature, "Young Artists: More Thrills of Discovery", as one of the "up-and-coming talents" in the classical music world. Wu has also won high praise from distinguished music critics at the Washington Post, Philadelphia Inquirer, Dallas Morning News, and New York Concert Review.

Tickets for the August 3 recital range from \$20 to \$30. Tickets may be ordered by calling the Gallo Center's toll free number, (877) 488-3380, or visiting its website [www.galloarts.org](http://www.galloarts.org).

The Gallo Center for the Arts is located at 1030 11th St., Modesto.

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