

Cliburn Medalist Sean Chen Opens Steinway Society Season

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hailed as a charismatic rising star with “*an exceptional ability to connect with an audience combined with an easy virtuosity*” (Huffington Post), American pianist Sean Chen is coming to Silicon Valley to open the 23rd Season for Steinway Society – The Bay Area on September 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Trianon Theater. A meet-and-greet with Mr. Chen follows the concert. Chen is Bronze Medalist from the 2013 Cliburn Competition, the Crystal Award winner at the 2013 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and recipient of the DeHaan Classical Fellowship. He is a Steinway Artist.

“Los Angeles native Sean Chen has the rare ability to combine poetic musical sensibilities and dazzling technical prowess.” Paula Edelstein, LA Music Examiner

WHO: Steinway Society - The Bay Area presents a concert by Sean Chen

WHAT: Classical Piano Recital

WHEN: Saturday, September 9, 7:30 pm

WHERE Trianon Theatre, San Jose, CA

PROGRAM:

- Chopin -- Nocturne Op. 27 No. 1
- Mompou -- Variations on a Theme of Chopin
- Ravel -- Miroirs
- Medtner -- Sonata-Ballade Op. 27

TICKETS/INFO: Single Tickets: \$40-\$60. Senior/Student Discounts Available

www.steinwaysociety.com or (408) 990-0872

More information: With a reputation for “approachable personality and showmanship” (SF Classical Voice,) 28-year-old classical pianist Sean Chen, continues to earn accolades for “alluring, colorfully shaded renditions” (New York Times) and “genuinely sensitive” (LA Times) playing. He has a "million-volt smile" and a "formidable set of fingers" (Dallas Morning News) and has won a significant

fan base with his "exceptional ability to connect with an audience combined with an easy virtuosity" (Huffington Post).

In 2013 Mr. Chen won Bronze at the 14th Van Cliburn International Competition, becoming the first American to reach the finals since 1997. He also won the American Pianists Association's DeHaan Classical Fellowship, one of the most monetarily rewarding and significant prizes available to an American pianist. He was also named a 2015 fellow by the prestigious Leonore Annenberg Fellowship Fund for the Performing Arts.

Mr. Chen grew up in the Oak Park area of Los Angeles, California. His impressive achievements before college include winning the NFAA ARTSweek, Los Angeles Music Center's Spotlight, and 2006 Presidential Scholars awards. These honors, combined with diligent schoolwork, facilitated offers of acceptance from MIT, Harvard, and The Juilliard School. Choosing to study music, Mr. Chen earned his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Juilliard.

He performed in Silicon Valley in 2014, just months after his Cliburn win, for Steinway Society – The Bay Area, and received a wildly enthusiastic reception from the audience. This year he will precede the Steinway Society's October artist, Yekwon Sunwoo, Gold Medalist of the 2017 Cliburn Competition.

"That Chen has performed music near and dear to his iconoclastic musical heart exudes through every moment of this impressive disc, a display of a superior digital talent guided by a penetrating artistic intellect." —Gary Lemco, Audiophile Audition

Additional information, reviews and recordings are available at his website www.seanchenpiano.com

About Us: **Steinway Society - The Bay Area** is a non-profit organization based in Silicon Valley. Now entering its 23rd season, this dedicated group of musicians, pianists, teachers and arts lovers promotes excellence in piano performance and music education. Each season, Steinway Society presents a series of classical piano concerts featuring international award-winning pianists, as well as an active school program. For more information on Season Subscriptions, the artists, and Steinway Society, go to www.SteinwaySociety.com.