

Bryan and Silvie Cheng present *Violonchelo del fuego* with music by Spain's foremost early twentieth-century composers.

cheng<sup>2</sup> duo  
bryan | silvie cheng

violonchelo del fuego



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The Cheng<sup>2</sup> Duo continues their journey through Europe: Bryan and Silvie Cheng dedicate their sophomore album to the impassioned, fiery sounds of Spain. The works of the country's foremost twentieth-century composers – Granados, Falla, Albéniz and Turina – are complemented by Casadó's *Requiebros* and Sarasate's beloved *Zigeunerweisen*.

Following their critically-acclaimed debut album on audite, *Violoncelle français*, the **Cheng<sup>2</sup> Duo** (pronounced “Cheng Squared Duo”) offers a compelling program of music by Spain’s foremost early twentieth-century composers. The interpretations are again steeped in a rare balance of unfiltered youthful joy and enthusiasm in their playing on the one hand, and mature, historically informed and profound interpretations on the other – this special balance becoming the trademark of the Cheng<sup>2</sup> Duo and commanding attention from the very first note.

*Violonchelo del fuego* is the second release in a set to be recorded with audite, with each album focusing on the music of a particular country. A further recording of Russian works for cello and piano is already being planned.

Since debuting at Carnegie Hall in 2011, the Cheng<sup>2</sup> Duo continues to be celebrated by audiences and critics alike for its artistic excellence, generous spirit, and compelling vibrancy. The Canadian duo is made of the siblings Bryan Cheng (cello) and Silvie Cheng (piano) and has been making music together for the past 15 years. The duo has presented recitals throughout North America, in Europe, and Asia, and has been featured at numerous international festivals, including Aspen (USA), Trasimeno (Italy), Ottawa Chamberfest and Festival of the Sound (Canada). The performers have not only proved success as Cheng<sup>2</sup> Duo but have also won renowned awards as soloists, each in their own right:

**Bryan Cheng**, recipient of the 2017 Canada Council for the Arts Michael Measures Prize, has attracted widespread attention for his natural, virtuosic command of the cello and his mature, impassioned musicianship. He made his orchestral debut at age 10 in Montreal and his Carnegie Hall recital debut at age 14. Since then he has been invited to perform as a soloist with numerous orchestras, at festivals, and in recitals in North America and abroad. He is 1<sup>st</sup> prize winner of the National Arts Centre Bursary Competition, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize winner of the OSM Manulife Competition, and a CBC Young Artist of the Year. He also champions new music and has given several world premieres in Canada and the USA. Formerly studying with cellist and conductor Yuli Turovsky and Hans Jørgen Jensen of Northwestern University (USA), he is currently enrolled at the Universität der Künste (University of the Arts) in Berlin in the class of Jens Peter Maintz.

**Silvie Cheng**, recipient of the Roy M. Rubinstein Award for exceptional promise in piano performance, made her orchestral debut in 2008, followed by her Carnegie Hall solo debut three years later. She has won numerous national and international piano competitions including top prizes at the Thousand Islands International Piano Competition, Heida Hermanns International Piano Competition, and Lillian Fuchs Chamber Music Competition. Solo recitals as well as chamber music performances lead her to major halls and festivals throughout North America and Europe. She received diplomas from the Royal Conservatory of Toronto and both her Bachelor’s and Master’s performance degrees from the Manhattan School of Music in New York, where her main teacher was Jeffrey Cohen. Master classes with distinguished pianists including Menahem Pressler, Angela Hewitt and Christoph Eschenbach rounded off her musical training. She is also the pianist of sTem Trio and a teaching-artist of both the Manhattan School and of Music of the Bridge Arts Ensemble.

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