

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 8AM 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021**

## **ERIC LU AWARDED AVERY FISHER CAREER GRANT**



Eric Lu (c) Ben Ealovega

Eric Lu was revealed as one of five recipients of the 2021 Avery Fisher Career Grants in a special hour-long programme on WQXR hosted by Elliott Forrest last night. Eric joins a prestigious list of Grant recipients from the past 45 years including Joshua Bell, Hilary Hahn and Yuja Wang. Eric Lu was chosen by a Recommendation Board and Executive Committee who believe he has great potential for a solo career. Following the announcement on WQXR last night, a virtual ceremony was broadcast, which can be watched on the [Avery Fisher Artist Program website](#).

Eric Lu commented:

*“I wish to thank Deborah Borda and the Executive Committee for awarding me an Avery Fisher Career Grant. In these challenging times it is a huge boost to receive this recognition. We are living in a time when the arts are needed more than ever and the sustained support for young artists epitomized by Avery Fisher’s philanthropical activities in his lifetime and his numerous endowments remain a source of inspiration.”*

Eric Lu, now 23, first gained international attention as a prize-winner of the 2015 Chopin International Piano Competition before winning First Prize at The Leeds International Piano Competition in 2018. Since then, Eric has signed with leading artist management company Askonas Holt, released an album on Warner Classics, made his debut at the BBC Proms and became a BBC New Generation Artist (2019-2022). Eric has made debuts all around the world, performing with leading orchestras and conductors in prestigious concert halls.

The Avery Fisher Career Grants are a long-standing philanthropic tradition started by the late Avery Fisher in 1976. Since then, 161 Career Grants have been awarded to young musicians who are either US citizens or permanent US residents. Other recipients of the Grant this year include cellists Sterling Elliott and Oliver Herbert, and violinists Geneva Lewis and Kevin Zhu.



Click to watch an excerpt from Eric Lu's performance of Beethoven Piano Concerto No.4 with Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla and the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra in February 2021

**-ENDS-**

**For more information, please contact Premier**

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### **Notes to Editor**

#### **Eric Lu**

Eric Lu won First Prize at The Leeds International Piano Competition in 2018, the first American to win the prestigious prize since Murray Perahia. He made his BBC Proms debut the following summer and is currently a member of the BBC New Generation Artists Scheme.

Recent concerto highlights for Eric have included performances with the Detroit Symphony, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, The Hallé, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Swedish Chamber Orchestra, Warsaw Philharmonic and Orchestre National de Lille, with conductors such as Thomas Dausgaard, Vasily Petrenko, Edward Gardner, Sir Mark Elder, Alexander Bloch, Long Yu, Martin Fröst and Tomáš Hanus. Forthcoming debuts include concerts with the London Symphony, Finnish Radio Symphony, Oslo Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony and Tiroler Symphonieorchester Innsbruck.

In recital Eric has already performed at London's Wigmore Hall, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie, New York's 92nd St Y, Brussels' BOZAR, Beijing's NCPA, the Seoul Arts Centre and Sala São Paulo. The coming months will see Eric return to Wigmore Hall and Chopin and his Europe Festival, and make his debut at Cologne's Philharmonie.

Eric is an exclusive Warner Classics recording artist. His most recent album featuring Chopin's 24 Preludes was released in March 2020 and named "Instrumental Record of the Month" by BBC Music Magazine.

Eric Lu first came to international attention as a prize-winner at the 2015 Chopin International Competition in Warsaw aged just seventeen. He previously won the 2015 US National Chopin

Competition, and was awarded the International German Piano Award in 2017. He is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, studying with Robert McDonald and Jonathan Biss. He is also a pupil of Dang Thai Son. He is now based in Berlin and Boston.

[www.ericlupianist.com](http://www.ericlupianist.com)

**Avery Fisher Career Grants of the Avery Fisher Artist Program** are designed to give professional assistance and recognition to talented instrumentalists, as well as chamber ensembles, who the Recommendation Board and Executive Committee of the Avery Fisher Artist Program believe to have great potential for major careers. Each recipient receives an award of \$25,000 to be used for specific needs in advancing a career. Typically the live Career Grant ceremony performances are professionally recorded for the recipients' unrestricted use and posted on the Program's website, a tradition that the Covid pandemic has put on hold. As of 2016, recipients receive a custom designed blue and gold rosette, given as a physical symbol of the Career Grant award. Up to five Avery Fisher Career Grants may be given each year. Recipients are nominated by the Program's Recommendation Board, made up of nationally known instrumentalists, conductors, composers, music educators, managers, and presenters.

**The Executive Committee** currently comprises Emanuel Ax, pianist; Deborah Borda, Chair, Avery Fisher Artist Program and Linda and Mitch Hart President and CEO, New York Philharmonic; Mary Lou Falcone, M.L. Falcone, Public Relations; David Finckel and Wu Han, Artistic Directors, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center; Henry Fogel, Dean Emeritus and Distinguished Professor of the Arts, Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University; Anthony Fogg, Bernell Artistic Administrator and Director of Tanglewood, Boston Symphony Orchestra; Pamela Frank, violinist; Jeremy Geffen, Executive and Artistic Director, Cal Performances; Ara Guzelimian, Artistic and Executive Director, Ojai Music Festival and Special Advisor, Office of the President, The Juilliard School; Yo-Yo Ma, cellist; Anthony McGill, clarinetist; Chad Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles Philharmonic; Matías Tarnopolsky, President and CEO, The Philadelphia Orchestra; and Henry Timms, President and CEO, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. Charles Avery Fisher, Nancy Fisher and Philip Avery Kirschner are advisors to the Executive Committee. The Avery Fisher Artist Program is grateful to Lincoln Center, Inc. for continued support. We also acknowledge our gratitude to WQXR for partnering in presenting the 2021 Avery Fisher Career Grant awards.

**Website:** [www.averyfisherartistprogram.org](http://www.averyfisherartistprogram.org)