



*Jeannette Fang has been impressing listeners with her powerful and passionate performances at Garth Newel Music Center for seven years, and plays more than 50 concerts a year. (Recorder photo by Austin Hall)*

## Local pianist continues to delight, amaze

BY AUSTIN HALL • STAFF WRITER

HOT SPRINGS – For seven years now, Jeannette Fang has been delighting audiences at Garth Newel Music Center.

Part of the Garth Newel Piano Quartet, Fang has been performing more than 50 concerts a year.

But Garth Newel isn't the only place Fang has been featured; she has also performed at venues such as Alice Tully Hall, John F. Kennedy Center, Zankel Hall, Hill Auditorium, Peter J. Sharp Theater, Weill Recital Hall, and Steinway Hall, as well as appearing on stages in Europe, South America, and Asia.

What makes it so special for Fang is being in the moment and delivering an experience to her audience.

"So much of our life, we're not in the moment," Fang said. "We're always thinking ahead or about mistakes we made, but in performance, especially chamber music, you have to react. And so you just can't be in that head space, and I love that because you forget everything else and you're just listening

and being there."

Fang's dedication to her craft and her love of performing have earned her numerous awards. Fang received the Gold Medal at the 2013 Seattle International Piano Competition, where she also received the President's Award and Audience Favorite Prize.

She earned top prizes in the Dallas Chamber Symphony International Piano Competition and the MTNA Young Artist National Competition. She is the recipient of the Earl V. Moore Award and the Gottlieb Award, given by the University of Michigan, and the Elizabeth J. Parisot award from Yale School of Music, the winner of the Karlfried Nordman Scholarship Piano Competition at Juilliard, and was a National Presidential Scholar in the Arts in 2003.

"When you play solo, it's just your perspective," Fang said. "But when you have chamber music, you're conveying and understanding that you've all come together, and that's just so much greater because it communicates to just so many more people."

Taking the spotlight has never been Fang's style, though, which is why she's enjoyed chamber music all of these years. "All we want is human connection — it's our greatest goal," she added. "The whole point for me is that you can share something and you can connect to somebody in the audience; even if it's one person, if they feel something from what you're playing, that's the point, at least for me."

Fang has collaborated with such acclaimed artists as the Parker Quartet, Roger Tapping, Aaron Berofsky, Peter Frankl, Bonnie Hampton, Juliette Kang, Tom Kraines, Aisslinn Nosky, and Tina Dahl, and been engaged by the Taos Music Festival, YellowBarn Festival, Bargemusic, and Le Poisson Rouge.

Fang has never backed down from a challenge. In 2020, she learned a piece by Alexander Scriabin for the score to a local short film, performing some of the most difficult piano music ever put on paper.

See PIANIST, page 23

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*Fang, center, performs with students at Garth Newel Music Center. (Recorder photos by Austin Hall)*

### From PIANIST, page 18

Fang has also worked on creating contemporary music representative of today's world. She was a founding member of the new music group, Khemia Ensemble, and has worked with composers such as Aaron Jay Kernis, Martin Bresnick, David Lang, Sydney Hodkinson, Harold Meltzer, David Biedenbender, Andy Akiho, and Pascal LeBoeuf.

Despite working with some of the best, Fang still focuses on how she can keep improving.

"I really just want to make myself better in comparison to myself," Fang said. "I don't really want to compare myself to anybody else, that's kind of a losing game, right? But if I could just

take myself to the best possible level I can, that's my goal. And hopefully it's a journey that keeps on going."

Fang also enjoys exploring different interests — she has published many articles on music, and currently hosts a podcast titled "So Many Wrong Notes."

She received her DMA from the University of Michigan and holds degrees from Juilliard and Yale. Her principal teachers have been Robert McDonald, Yoheved Kaplinsky, Julian Martin, Peter Frankl, and Logan Skelton.

Along with her husband, actor Tracy Fisher, she co-founded the production company FFproductions (<https://www.doublefproductions.com>).



*At a recent Garth Newel Music Center performance, Fang entertained the crowd with a delightful tale before playing a bit of Bach.*