

phyllis chen



Thursday,  
November 4  
8:00 p.m.

# the CenterStage



So Close to You.  
So Much to Do.™

2010-2011 Professional  
**TOURING  
ARTIST**  
Series

The Reston Community Center presents

## Phyllis Chen

<i>Mirabella</i> for solo toy piano.....	Stephen Montague
<i>Exposiciones</i> for toy piano and tape.....	Andrian Pertout
<i>Hallucinate</i> for toy piano and bowls	
<i>Colura</i> for toy piano and bowls	
<i>Double Helix</i> for toy piano and bowls .....	Phyllis Chen
<i>Makrokosmos</i> Book 2 for extended piano	
Cancer	
Sagittarius	
Pisces	
Gemini .....	George Crumb
<i>East Broadway</i> for toy piano and toy boombox .....	Julia Wolfe

### INTERMISSION

<i>Carousels</i> for toy piano and music box .....	Phyllis Chen
<i>Whatever Shall Be</i> for toy piano, live-electronics and gadgets .....	Karlheinz Essl
<i>Toy Toccata</i> for solo toy piano .....	Fabian Svensson
<i>China Gates</i> for solo piano .....	John Adams
<i>Alvin Lucier</i> for piano, teapot and miniature sound system .....	Alvin Lucier

**Phyllis Chen is a winner of the Concert Artists Guild International Competition  
and is represented by**

**Concert Artists Guild, 850 Seventh Ave. #1205, New York, NY 10019 ([www.concertartists.org](http://www.concertartists.org))**

## Phyllis Chen, toy piano/piano *New Music/New Places Fellow*

Praised by *The New York Times* for her “delightful quirkiness matched with interpretive sensitivity,” Phyllis Chen’s artistic pursuits take her in numerous directions as a toy pianist, pianist, composer and performance artist. Ms. Chen was named a *New Music/New Places Fellow* at the 2007 Concert Artists Guild International Competition. She creates original multi-media compositions using toy pianos, music boxes, electronics and video, which she offers in concert alongside works by prominent 20<sup>th</sup> century composers such as John Cage and Julia Wolfe.

The 2010-11 season features the launch of *The Looking Glass ReWondered*, Ms. Chen’s latest multi-media project (and collaboration with video artist Rob Deitz) inspired by fairytales with a focus on Lewis Carroll’s *Alice in Wonderland*. In October she tours Europe with stops at the Approximation Festival in Dusseldorf, Madame Claude in Berlin and the Kraak Festival in Ghent. Spring 2011 is highlighted by two Brooklyn-based residencies: one at Barbès Bar & Performance Space focusing on cross-genre collaborations; and with NYC City Tech Theatreworks and Entertainment Technology to workshop and launch “Down the Rabbit Hole” (a NYSCA-funded CAG commission). US performances include those at WNYC’s Greenspace, Impulse Artists Series in Houston and University of Dayton.

In September 2010 Ms. Chen releases her second CD, *Mesmers*, at Barbès Bar. The disc is a mini-album featuring all original works for toy piano, bowls, music boxes and electronics. Her debut CD, *UnCaged Toy Piano*, was released on CAG Records in fall 2009 to critical acclaim.

Ms. Chen’s 2009-10 season featured *Sounding Off* with cellist Johannes Moser, a six-city US tour with performances in San Diego, San Francisco, Malibu, Boulder, Detroit and culminating at New York’s (Le) Poisson Rouge. *The Los Angeles Times* reviewed the Malibu performance calling Ms. Chen “...a bold pianist with an excellent sense of color” and “...a dazzling delight.” Ms. Chen’s engagements included the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, Portland Piano International, New York’s Look & Listen Festival and World Music Festival in Chicago.

In 2008–09, Ms. Chen appeared at the Thalia Theatre at Symphony Space in a concert reviewed by *The New York Times*, which declared: “This was stylish, beautifully measured playing, lightly pedaled, crisply articulated and texturally transparent.” In the spring of 2009, she was the featured musician for the world premiere and ensuing six-week run of Stephin Merritt’s Off-Broadway production, *Coraline*.

*The UnCaged Toy Piano Competition* is an annual event created by Ms. Chen in 2007 as a forum to expand the repertoire for toy piano and electronics. By the second year, this call-for-scores received over 100 submissions from eleven countries. Ms. Chen is a member of ICE (International Contemporary Ensemble), a Chicago and New York-based collective dedicated to the performance of new works.

Ms. Chen’s traditional piano credits include honors at the International Bartok/Kabalevsky Piano Competition and the Marjorie Barnett Competition of Chicago where she received a special Bach Prize for her performance of the *Goldberg Variations*. She has performed on the Dame Myra Hess Series at the Chicago Cultural Center, aired live on WFMT Public Radio.

Phyllis Chen attended Oberlin Conservatory as a recipient of the Dean’s Talent Award Scholarship and received a Masters Degree from Northwestern University as an Eckstein Merit Scholar. While working on her DMA in piano performance at Indiana University under the tutelage of André Watts, Ms. Chen hosted her own radio program, *The Toad’s Wart*, on IU’s radio station WIUX-LP.

## Coming Soon



### **Ahn Trio**

Friday, November 19, 8:00 p.m.  
\$15 (R)/\$30 (NR)



### **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**

Sunday, November 21, 3:00 p.m.  
\$15 (R)/\$30 (NR)

**Tickets available online [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com)**

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