

XIV International Chamber Music Festival “Fundación MonteLeón”
Closing Concert: Monday, 8 December 2025, 12:00 p.m.
Auditorio “Ciudad de León”. (Spain)

- GUEST ARTISTS -

STEVEN ISSERLIS & CONNIE SHIH

British cellist **Steven Isserlis**, appointed Commander of the British Empire (CBE), enjoys a distinguished international career as soloist, chamber musician, writer, teacher, and broadcaster. Renowned for his versatility, he performs repertoire ranging from the Baroque to the present day and collaborates with the world’s leading orchestras. He has premiered works by Sir John Tavener, Thomas Adès, György Kurtág, Heinz Holliger, Jörg Widmann, Olli Mustonen, Mikhail Pletnev, and many others.

His extensive discography encompasses much of the cello repertoire, including the Bach Suites (Gramophone Award), the complete Beethoven works for cello and piano, and Brahms’s Double Concerto with Joshua Bell. He has received two Grammy nominations and numerous other honors, among them the BBC Music Magazine Premiere Award for recordings of John Tavener. In 2024 he released two new albums: Mendelssohn’s Piano Trios with Joshua Bell and Jeremy Denk, and a recording devoted to Boccherini.

As an author, he has published a highly acclaimed study of Bach’s Suites, two successful children’s books on music, and a commentary on Schumann’s *Advice to Young Musicians*. He has also written and presented BBC Radio documentaries on Robert Schumann and Harpo Marx.

Celebrated for his artistic insight, he has devised innovative concert series for Wigmore Hall, New York’s 92nd Street Y, and the Salzburg Festival. In 2019 he directed the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra from the cello in the final public performance of Radu Lupu. His many distinctions include the Piatigorsky Award and the Glashütte Original Music Festival Award. Since 1997 he has been Artistic Director of the International Musicians Seminar at Prussia Cove. He performs on the 1726 Stradivarius “Marquis de Corberon,” on loan from the Royal Academy of Music.

<https://stevenisserlis.com/>

Canadian pianist **Connie Shih**, born in Vancouver, made her debut at the age of nine with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra in Mendelssohn’s First Piano Concerto. In 1993 she received the Sylva Gelber Award, presented to Canada’s most outstanding classical artist under 30. She has since performed as soloist and recitalist throughout the Americas, Europe, and Asia, and has appeared at leading festivals including Verbier, Lucerne, Kronberg, Bath, and Aldeburgh.

She is widely recognized for her partnership with Steven Isserlis, with whom she tours internationally and has recorded several critically acclaimed albums. She has also collaborated with Joshua Bell, Maxim Vengerov, Isabelle Faust, and Sir Simon

Keenlyside. With Manuel Fischer-Dieskau she recorded the sonatas of Reinecke and Beethoven, and since 2017 has released recordings with the BIS label.

An experienced pedagogue, she has taught at the Hochschule für Musik Mainz and the Hochschule für Musik Freiburg, and since 2022 has been professor at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. She also gives masterclasses worldwide and has taught at the Casalmaggiore Festival and Musiktage am Rhein. A protégé of György Sebök from the age of twelve, she went on to study at the Curtis Institute of Music with Claude Frank, and later in Europe with Fou Ts'ong.

<https://conniekshih.wixsite.com/connieshih2/page2>