*MUSIC AT WESLEY*

TUESDAY LUNCHTIME CONCERT

WESLEY CHURCH CENTRE, ST JOHN STREET, CHESTER CH1 1DA

June 10th 2025, 12.45pm

**MATTHEW LAU – Piano**

**Sonata No.9 in E major Op. 14 No. 1 Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827)**

1. *Allegro*
2. *Allegretto*
3. [*Rondo*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rondo)*– Allegro comodo*

**Three Intermezzi Op. 117 Johannes Brahms (1833 – 97)**

*No.1 - E flat major*

*No.2 - B flat minor*

*No.3 - C sharp minor*

**Liebestraum No. 3 Franz Liszt (1811 – 86)**

**The White Peacock (from Roman Sketches Op. 7) Charles Griffes (1884 – 1920)**

**Scherzo (from Fantasy Pieces Op. 6) Charles Griffes (1884 – 1920)**

*Thank you for supporting this recital. The retiring collection (suggested minimum donation £4 per person) covers performing rights and other direct expenses, with the balance in aid of Wesley Church funds. If you are a taxpayer it would be much appreciated if you would donate using a Gift Aid envelope (just add your name, address & post code).*

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**Matthew Lau** is an accomplished pianist having been awarded 1st place at the Beethoven Junior Intercollegiate Piano competition to become the first winner of the competition from the Junior Royal Northern College of Music and reaching the final of the prestigious RNCM Gold Medal Competition. He has enjoyed playing in various concerts series and recitals across the UK, such as Chester Wesley Church, Chester Music Society, Wigan Music Society, Forsyth Music Shop, Manchester St Ann's Church, Nantwich, Ealing St Barnabas Church and the Leigh Music Society. Matthew’s performances are not just limited to recital settings, having played in an RNCM Research forum given by Dr Denis Herlin and for a lecture by the Verdun Allen Music Foundation on the works of Debussy and Ravel.

At a young age, Matthew started performing at JRNCM where he had the opportunity to take part in the RNCM Keyboard Day, informal and formal lunchtime concerts. He continued his studies at the RNCM graduating with a first class honours degree and a Masters with Distinction. Since his first year as a JRNCM student, Matthew studied with John Gough but has also had the pleasure of playing to established artists, such as Kathryn Stott, Jean Efflam Bavouzet, Pascal Rogé and Trio Gaspard. Matthew is now conducting doctoral research at the RNCM on the 20th Century composer Charles Griffes. His PhD aims to be the first project to record the complete piano works with the inclusion of world premieres.

In addition to his work as a soloist, Matthew is a keen collaborative pianist and has a particular interest in vocal repertoire ranging from French, German, English to Spanish song. His work with singers covers a mixture of styles and led to innovative performances in the RNCM Spotlight Concert Series. Matthew is also an accompanist for the Cantare Ladies Choir.

*Forthcoming ‘Music at Wesley’ Concerts*

**Tuesday Lunchtime Concerts, 12.45pm. Retiring Collection**

June 17th: Brian Heald (piano)

June 24th: Lionel Clarke (cello), Brian Heald (piano)

July 1st: Melvin Chan (piano)

 **Saturday Organ Recitals Series, 12.45pm, Retiring collection**

June 21st: Paul Carr (Birmingham)

***‘Wednesdays at One’ Lunchtime Concerts at St John’s Church run throughout the summer.***

***See*** [*www.stjohnschester.uk*](http://www.stjohnschester.uk) ***for performer details***