



The Chamber Orchestra of Europe on tour performing all of Beethoven's piano concertos under the direction of pianist Sunwook Kim



For the first time, the exceptional pianist Sunwook Kim will lead the Chamber Orchestra of Europe as a piano soloist. Together, Sunwook Kim and the COE will present all of Beethoven's piano concertos on a tour that will travel throughout Europe and South Korea in Spring 2025. With a total of twelve concerts, highlights will include the Berlin Philharmonic on 24th of March 2025, Esterházy Palace in Eisenstadt on 29th and 30th of March 2025, and two concerts in England - on 11th of April 2025 in Saffron Walden, Essex, and in the Barbican Centre in London on 12th of April 2025.

"The Chamber Orchestra of Europe is without a doubt one of the finest ensembles. It is a group admired and sought after by many wonderful Maestros, and the history and sound they have created continue to shine, maintaining their excellence to this day. I feel incredibly honoured and thrilled to have the opportunity to perform my most beloved Beethoven piano concertos with these wonderful musicians. I eagerly look forward to this tour, hoping it will create joyful memories for both myself and the orchestra, and I cannot wait for the day to arrive." Sunwook Kim

The COE has worked closely with the South Korean pianist Sunwook Kim, who won the Clara Haskil Competition in 2005 and, a year later, became the first Asian musician to win the renowned Leeds International Piano Competition and, with this huge success, began an unprecedented career at the age of 18. He is considered one of the most subtle pianists of his generation, impressed by his technical brilliance and his profound interpretations. Sunwook Kim will now lead the orchestra from the piano for the first time, performing Beethoven's piano concertos on tour in March and April 2025.

"The Chamber Orchestra of Europe first made music with Sunwook Kim in 2022 immediately establishing a strong musical and personal connection. It is with great anticipation and pleasure that we look forward to exploring Beethoven's five piano concertos together with him, on tour in Europe and Korea during Spring 2025. As a collective of chamber musicians it will be a delight for us to work with Sunwook on Beethoven's inspiring piano concertos and to have the opportunity to realise the many special and exciting performances that we have ahead of us." Simon Fletcher, COE General Manager.

The tour begins on 22nd of March 2025 in the Salle Philharmonique in Liège, Belgium, where the COE will perform for the first time. On the 24th of March, Sunwook Kim and the COE will be at the Berliner Philharmonie at the invitation of the Berliner Philharmoniker. The concert with the COE on the **24th of March 2025 in the Chamber Music Hall of the Berlin Philharmonie** will feature Beethoven's third piano concerto - the only one in a minor key – and the lyrical fourth concerto. Two works by contemporary British composers will also be performed: Anna Clyne's string piece "Stride" is inspired by Beethoven's music and Helen Grime's work "Elegiac Inflections" for wind ensemble experiments with the different timbres of the wind instruments.

On the **26th of March 2025** at the Halle aux Grains in **Toulouse, France**, Sunwook Kim and the COE will present Beethoven's last three piano concertos in one evening – an experience of great musical intensity. And on the **29th and 30th of March 2025**, all five of Beethoven's piano concertos will be performed over two days in the famous **Esterházy Palace in Eisenstadt**, once the workplace of Joseph Haydn and, since

2022, the home of resident orchestra, the COE. From the young Beethoven's ambitious first two piano concertos to the mature fifth and final concerto, with its fascinating contrast between symphonic sonority and intimate chamber music – the programme is a delightful challenge for Sunwook Kim and the COE, a rare gift for the listeners, and a wonderful evening for everyone, not just fans of Beethoven.

After concerts in Sunwook Kim's homeland South Korea, the tour will finally head to England with a concert on **11th of April 2025 in Saffron Walden, Essex**, followed by the grand finale on the **12th of April 2025 at the Barbican Centre in London**. In addition to the third and fourth piano concertos by Beethoven, and alongside Anna Clyne's composition "Stride", the charming Rondino in E-flat major for wind octet by the young Beethoven will be performed. For Sunwook Kim, who is based in London, the end of the tour is like coming home. Although the COE's administration is based in London, the ensemble's last concert in the British capital was over seven years ago, taking place in 2017 as part of the BBC Proms. London has become an important hub for the orchestra over the years, and the Barbican Centre is also closely connected to the orchestra's history. Shortly after it was founded, the COE carried out acoustic tests at the Barbican Centre before the venue was opened in 1982. Back then, all musicians had to wear protective helmets while playing for their safety – a memory that still makes some founding members smile today.

Further information on the **Chamber Orchestra of Europe**: <https://www.coeurope.org/>

Further Details on **Sunwook Kim**: <https://sunwookkim.com/>

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