



## Eric Lu • Prom 57

‘Winning the Leeds International Piano Competition was a dream come true for me.’ US pianist Eric Lu, still just 21, is looking back with understandable pride to his 2018 triumph. ‘It was an honour to have played there – many of the pianists I most admire are among the competition’s previous winners. My life has changed tremendously since then, and the win has helped open the doors to many amazing stages – such as London’s Wigmore Hall and Amsterdam’s Royal Concertgebouw, and of course the BBC Proms.’

Lu makes his Proms debut with a work that’s particularly close to his heart. ‘I only started working formally on Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 23 a few years back, but it’s a piece I grew up with, listening to countless recordings and concerts. Mozart is one of the composers I feel most close to. His keyboard writing has such transparency, and an operatic sense of lyricism.’

What does he enjoy about this specific concerto? ‘The whole piece is centred around its famous second movement, which is filled with loneliness and an intimate pathos. Whenever Mozart writes in a minor key, we’re shown a completely different side to him. In a way, it reminds me of the last piece he worked on, the *Requiem*. It’s a jewel among Mozart’s concertos.’