



416.544.1803 liz@lizpr.com www.lizpr.com

junctQín

Group bio

(As of April 2011)

Toronto-based **junctQín** (pronounced 'junction') consists of pianists Elaine Lau, Joseph Ferretti, and Stephanie Chua. The name of the collective is taken from *junctio* – the Latin word meaning *to join*, and from *Qín* – the Chinese character for keyboard instrument. Elaine and Joseph began duo piano performances in 2003; Stephanie and Elaine met the same year as graduate students. The three discovered a mutual love of contemporary music for all kinds of keyboards, so when the trio united for a gig in the spring of 2009, junctQín was born.

Self-proclaimed “keyboard geeks,” the members of junctQín consider the group a vehicle to introduce audiences to contemporary keyboard repertoire. Through collaborations with living composers, innovative programming, interactive performances and outreach programs, junctQín’s goal is to break down the barriers of new music with one of the most accessible instruments – the piano. Most of junctQín’s concerts feature a grand piano and two toy pianos, or, depending on the venue (or weather!) will include electroacoustics with toy piano, music box, acoustic tables, iDogs (yes – a robot dog), laptop, and other instrumentalists. Repertoire can be anything from Baroque keyboard pieces, Beatles tunes, Philip Glass, the melody of an ice cream truck, you name it – as well as works written collaboratively. Multimedia projects featuring contemporary art are part of a typical concert, too. junctQín believes new/contemporary classical music should be accessible, fun, and entertaining.

In its inaugural year, junctQín was featured at the 2009 spOtlight Festival (produced by Ontario Arts Council, and co-sponsored by North American toy piano manufacturer Schoenhut). The group also gave a well-received recital at the Canadian Opera Company’s Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, performed at the Cambridge Galleries as part of March Break outreach activities and gave the Canadian première of *Invention in Three Parts*, composed by American composer Douglas C. Wadle at Artsweek Peterborough. The latter work was selected to be performed at Toronto’s 2010 Scotiabank Nuit Blanche, an all-night contemporary art festival.

With a keen interest in multimedia and multi-arts presentations, junctQín has also collaborated with Canadian artist Kenneth Doren in his digital opera *Rule Britannia: A low opera in grand shite style* and with Toronto conceptual artist Derek Liddington for his Springsteen-inspired, piano-duel installation *Coup de grâce*. Projects and concerts during 2011 include commission of works by Canadian composers Aaron Gervais, Alex Eddington and Susan Griesdale, as well as a collaboration with the Toy Piano Composers Collective (www.thetoypianocomposers.com), whose manifesto is “eight mischievous composers unleash their collective creative musical genius on Toronto.” In the 2011-2012 season, junctQín is scheduled to perform in the Colours of Music Festival (Barrie, ON), as well as première a new collaboration with Austrian composer Karlheinz Essl (University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna) presented by Toronto’s Music Gallery.

The versatility of Elaine, Joseph, and Stephanie has resulted in their involvement in many performances that extend beyond traditional settings, such as a garden concert at the outdoor Raff Pavilion, an outdoor trail concert at Eramosa River Park, and a sound installation at Artspace Gallery. They have each appeared as soloists and collaborative pianists throughout Canada, the United States, and Europe, in numerous concert series, venues and ensembles. Dedicated to working with living composers, these musicians have premiered dozens of Canadian and international compositions – most recently, works by Toronto composer Linda Catlin Smith, UK composer/installation artist Hywel Davies, and German composer Moritz Eggert.

junctQín wishes to acknowledge the generous support of the Ontario Arts Council.

For more information, visit: www.junctqin.com.

Joseph Ferretti

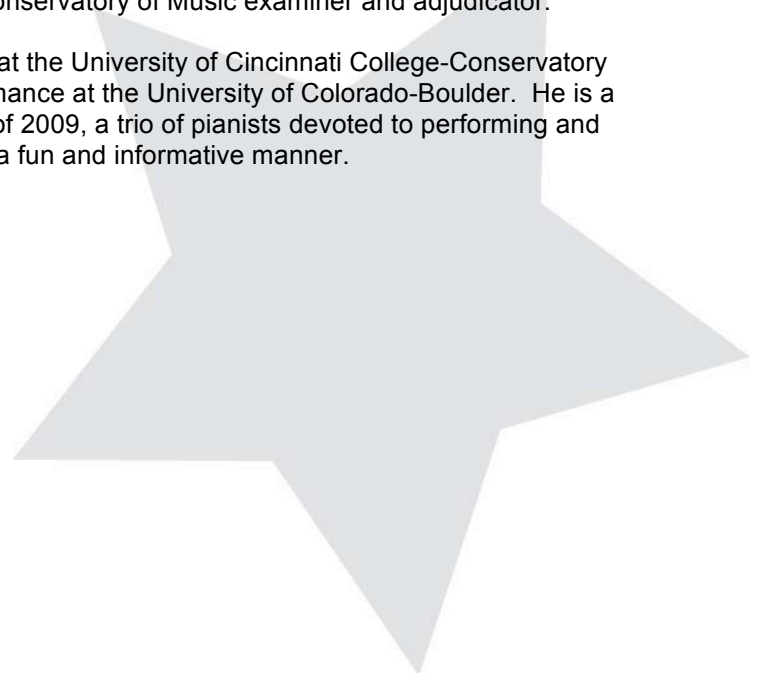
Pianist, junctQín

Joseph Ferretti has performed throughout Europe, Canada and the USA as both soloist and collaborative artist. Recent performances include the Canadian Opera Company's Free Concert Series at the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre, NUMUS, the Banff Centre for the Arts, Canadian Music Centre's *New Music in New Places*, Gallery 345, the *spotlight* Festival, Artsweek Peterborough, the Heliconian Music Concert Series, the Canadian Chamber Ensemble of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, and the Talisker Chamber Players. He has also performed a variety of university concert series as soloist and in duo piano performances throughout North America.

Joseph frequently performs as a duo with pianist Elaine Lau, with whom he has recorded for Capstone Records in a compilation disc entitled "Soliloquies," which featured "Music for Two Pianos" by Jack Behrens. The Ferretti Lau Duo has premiered music by Toronto composer Linda Catlin Smith and New Brunswick composer WL Altman. In the 2011-2012 season of NUMUS, the duo will be featured concerto soloists. Joseph has worked closely with American composers Frederic Rzewski and Jack Behrens, Canadian composers Jana Skarecky, and the late Mary Gardiner.

Mr. Ferretti teaches piano at Wilfrid Laurier University, a position he has held since 2003. From 2002 to 2008, he was a collaborative artist in a summer residency program at the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts, where he also taught and enjoyed working with gifted youth. As a workshop clinician and lecture recitalist, he has given presentations for such institutions as the Glenn Gould School in Toronto, Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, McMaster University and Mohawk College, both in Hamilton. He is also active nationally as a Royal Conservatory of Music examiner and adjudicator.

Joseph received his Masters and Doctoral degrees at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and his Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance at the University of Colorado-Boulder. He is a founding member of junctQín, formed in the spring of 2009, a trio of pianists devoted to performing and entertaining audiences with contemporary music in a fun and informative manner.



Stephanie Chua

Pianist, junctQín

Stephanie Chua is an expressive and versatile Canadian pianist devoted to presenting and performing works of the 20th and 21st centuries through musical insight and innovative programming. Based in Toronto, Stephanie has performed in solo and chamber recitals across Canada and in Europe. She has presented solo recitals at the Music Gallery (Toronto), the Arts & Letters Club of Toronto, and the McMichael Gallery of Canadian Art (Kleinburg, ON); she also been heard in concerts presented by X-Avant Festival 2010 (Toronto), GroundSwell (Winnipeg) and New Music North (Thunder Bay). Recent international highlights include performances at Impuls Contemporary Music Festival 2009 in Graz, Austria and a solo tour of South-West England with performances at the Michael Tippett Centre (Bath) and the Cube Microplex (Bristol).

As a much sought-after collaborative pianist, Stephanie has accompanied at the l'Orchestre symphonique de Montréal Standard Life Competition (Winds, 2008), the Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition for Contemporary Music (Strings, 2010) and the 2010 Susan Slaughter International Brass Competition. She has also worked as a repetiteur for Tapestry New Opera in the workshop and premiere of a new work by composer Juliette Palmer and librettist Julie Salverson –*Shelter –An Atomic Opera*.

In 2009, Stephanie co-founded junctQín with Elaine Lau and Joseph Ferretti. junctQín is trio of pianists devoted to performances of contemporary music and commissioning new works for their unique instrumentation. Most recently, junctQín has been featured in recital at the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre of the COC's Four Season Centre for the Performing Arts and presented at Scotiabank Nuit Blanche 2010 in Toronto.

Stephanie holds her Artist Diploma from the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music and a Master of Music from the University of Toronto. She was also Artist-in-Residence at the Banff Centre for the Arts, and earned her Bachelor of Music from the University of Victoria. Some of her main teachers were Robin Wood and Marietta Orlov, and she participated in master classes with Menahem Pressler and Leon Fleisher. In 2009, Stephanie received a Career Development Grant from the Ontario Arts Council allowing her to pursuing private studies with Ian Pace in London, England.



Elaine Lau

Pianist, junctQín

Elaine Lau is a Toronto-based pianist and toy pianist. Versatile as both a soloist and collaborative artist, she has appeared as keyboardist and soloist with Canadian orchestras, and broadcast on CBC Radio 2 and National Public Radio in the United States. Equally at home with the standard canon, Elaine also has an avid interest in the contemporary repertoire/new music for toy, solo and duo piano, and is active in the premiering of new works for these mediums. She has had the opportunity to collaborate with many composers, such as George Crumb, Dan Deacon, and Canadians Linda Catlin Smith and WL Altman. Recent new music appearances include performances with the Canadian Chamber Ensemble, NUMUS and the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony. Elaine has been featured as a solo recitalist for the Canadian Opera Company's Piano Virtuoso concert series and at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinburg, Ontario. Her live recordings of Canadian piano music have can be found online at the Canadian Music Centre.

As duo pianist with Joseph Ferretti, Elaine has performed across Canada, including concerts at the Banff Centre, the Royal Conservatory of Music, McMaster University, and Mount Allison University. In the US, they performed at the Blue Lake Fine Arts Festival. The duo has premiered many works and in 2006, held an artist residency at the Banff Centre for the Arts. As recording artists, they participated in a disc of music by Canadian and American composers released in 2009 by Capstone Records entitled "Soliloquies". In the 2011-2012 season of NUMUS, the duo will be featured concerto soloists.

As a founding member of junctQín, a keyboard collective of three devoted to performing new music, Elaine performed most recently at Toronto's 2010 Scotiabank Nuit Blanche and the Piano Virtuoso Series at the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre. She gave the world premiere of "No Wrong Notes" by US/Canadian composer Jack Behrens in 2002 at the Royal Conservatory of Music, and the Canadian premiere of German composer Moritz Eggert's "One Man Band II" in February of 2010. Elaine has also given the Canadian premieres of duo piano works with Joseph Ferretti written by Gao Ping, a Chinese composer now residing in New Zealand, and of Eggert at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Elaine was coach and repetiteur for the Opera Theatre of Lucca, Italy, and collaborative pianist for the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts in the USA from 2005-2008. She serves on the piano faculty at Wilfrid Laurier University, a post she began in 2003.

Elaine holds a Masters Degree in Piano Performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where she studied with Eugene and Elizabeth Pridonoff. She also received her Artist Diploma in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music. Influential teachers include Peter Longworth, Valerie Tryon, June Caskey, Gwen Beamish, Golda Wainberg-Tatz and Karl Ulrich Schnabel.

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