

Pianist with key to your heart

Adam Gyorgy will play popular crowd-pleasing tunes at his concert here

adeline chia
arts reporter

Hungarian pianist Adam Gyorgy (right) may be only 26, but he has a veteran's appreciation of what audiences like, as Singaporeans will see for themselves when he performs here next week.

The rising star of the classical musical world is going for a crowd-pleasing evening at the Victoria Concert Hall, and he is proud of it.

The programme includes popular favourites such as Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 and La Campanella, Chopin's Ballade in G Minor and the Wedding March.

The pianist says: "It's a very audience-friendly repertoire. I think musicians can only interpret repertoires that they themselves enjoy. I enjoy this repertoire and this is how I can play my best."

His concert is presented by TCM Exam-

inations Centre, the local representative of the university Trinity College London, and the Hungarian embassy in Singapore.

On the telephone with Life!, he is warm and amiable despite nursing a sore throat, chatting easily about his love for sports, especially soccer, his close-knit family and his latest DVD, titled Adam György Live In Budapest, which is shot in high-definition.

Apologising for sounding as husky as Rod Stewart, he says he was last here two years ago on another world tour.

He says: "I especially enjoy playing in Asia, where the classical music scene is opening up. People listen to music without prejudice. They are very loving and show their appreciation."

The younger of two sons, Gyorgy first picked out a tune on a piano at the age of four. His engineer father, who is an amateur musician, had many instruments lying around the house. His mother died when he was eight and his brother, Laszlo, 28, is now his manager.

He started taking formal lessons at five, then entered the Bela Bartok Conservatory at age 12 and later the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in 2000, winning many prizes in competitions in Hungary, Austria and Italy along the way.

In 2005, he was invited to join the



Steinway Artist community, a rare accolade given to the world's best pianists, including the late Russian pianist Vladimir Horowitz and Polish pianist Krystian Zimerman.

The bachelor has seven albums to his name, the most recent of which is Adam Gyorgy Plays Bach And Mozart, which he will be promoting here.

In between performing, he is doing his doctoral studies at the Liszt Academy on a state scholarship.

The subject is piano technique and practising, and he will touch on this topic in a master class here and lecture at The Arts House.

He says: "The Hungarian piano school combines Western European styles and Russian school. It has a very strong technical base. I'll talk about how we learn from the early years, how we build up our technique and how we build up our repertoire."

He takes time out to relax from his grueling schedule of tours, recordings and hours of daily practice by going to the mountains in Hungary to live with his grandmother.

"We grow fruit and vegetables there, we are separated from the world. When you stay in cities like New York and Budapest, you need some time away."

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book it

**ADAM GYORGY, STEINWAY ARTIST,
PIANO RECITAL**

Where: Victoria Concert Hall

When: Wednesday, 8pm

Admission: \$38 from Gatecrash

(www.gatecrash.com.sg, tel: 6100-2005)