International Guitar Recital Series

BOKYUNG BYUN

Friday, April 5, 2024
5:00 PM
NIU School of Music Recital Hall

PROGRAM

Campanas del Alba
Eduardo Sainz de la Maza
(1903-1982)

Brasiliana No. 13
Radamés Gnattali
(1906-1988)

Samba bossa-nova
Valsa
Choro

Sonata Omaggio a Boccherini, Op. 77
Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco
(1897-1968)

Allegro con spirito
Andantino, quasi canzone
Tempo di Minuetto
Vivo energico

Sonatina
Celil Refik Kaya
(b. 1991)

Andante
Adagio
Allegro

Western Vista
Olga Amelkina-Vera
(b.1976)
Recipient of the 2023 Avery Fisher Career Grant, Bokyung Byun enjoys a reputation as one of the most sought-after guitarists of her generation. Bokyung holds the distinction of being the first female winner of the prestigious JoAnn Falletta International Guitar Concerto Competition, where Falletta herself described Bokyung’s performance as "stunning, showcasing her gorgeous tone, immaculate technique, and sophisticated musicianship." Other recent honors include the grand prize at the 2021 Guitar Foundation of America International Concert Artist Competition and the Montreal International Classical Guitar Competition.

Born in Seoul, Korea, Bokyung began playing guitar at the age of six. At eleven, she took the stage for her first solo recital, leading to an early start in her teen years performing numerous concert tours in Asia. At the same time, Bokyung gained international attention for first-prize finishes in international competitions.

Bokyung soon moved to the United States, where she entered The Juilliard School at the age of sixteen. She holds Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from The Juilliard School and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California. Teachers and mentors include Scott Tennant, William Kanengiser, Chen Zhi, Tae-Soo Kim, and Sharon Isbin.

Bokyung’s debut recording in 2020 has been praised by Soundboard Magazine as, “a very beautiful disc…We are treated to extraordinary musicianship, technical assurance, and beauty of sound.” In 2022, American Record Guide chose her Naxos Laurate Series recording as the Critics’ Choice Album, remarking her style as “very reminiscent of Andres Segovia.”

Bokyung is currently on the guitar faculty of University of North Texas. She is an Augustine Strings artist and plays a guitar by Dieter Mueller (2019).