

Hailed by the Herald-Tribune for his “dazzling pianism verging on the impossible, effortless technical command and authority with a sense of poetry and refinement that belies his years,” Indian-American pianist Vijay Venkatesh has been recognized on three continents as a pianist with profound musicianship, sparkling pianism and an innate sense of partnership. Vijay has rapidly established a major international reputation as top prizewinner in the San Jose, Seattle, Zimmerli, World Piano, and Waring International Piano Competitions. He has also been named a Davidson Fellow Laureate at the Library of Congress, USC Thornton's Discovery Scholar, Grand Prize Winner of the Los Angeles Music Center's Spotlight Awards and featured on NPR's “From the Top,” with host Christopher O'Riley.

Highlights of Vijay's upcoming seasons include debuts with the Rogue Valley Symphony with conductor Martin Majkut in Clara Schumann's Piano Concerto, the LaGrange Symphony with conductor Richard Prior in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 and at the Le Salon Musiques with Chopin's First Concerto. Venkatesh will also return to the Redlands Bowl with the Hollywood Chamber Orchestra with conductor Roger Kalia in Beethoven's Concerto No. 5. Additionally, Vijay has solo recitals and chamber music with the Vieness Piano Duo at the Covington Recital Series, Lancaster Performing Arts Center, L'ermitage Foundation, the Music Guild, Sarasota Artists Series, Second City Chamber Series, Summer Stars Series and a concert tour of the Midwest through Allied Concert Services and a recital tour of India through the South Asian Symphony Foundation.

An immersive and versatile soloist, Mr. Venkatesh has performed extensively across the United States and Europe as soloist with the symphony orchestras of Seattle, Vienna, Sarasota, Redlands, Roanoke, Eastern Connecticut, YMF Debut, USC Thornton, IU Jacobs, UC Irvine, Pasadena, Rio Hondo, South Coast, Transylvania, and the Brevard Music Center. He has collaborated with preeminent conductors such as Jeffrey Kahane, Ludovic Morlot, David Lockington, David Stewart Wiley, Toshiyuki Shimada, Ken Lam, Michael Repper, Frank Fetta, and more. Vijay has performed at Merkin Hall in New York, Chicago's Dame Myra Hess series, and at the Aspen, Brevard, Banff, Newport, Redlands Bowl, Sarasota, and Vienna Music Festivals. As recipient of the inaugural Parnassus Society Prize, he performed in recital at the Soka Performing Arts Center.

An active chamber musician, Venkatesh has appeared eight times on Le Salon de Musiques at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles and tours as the Vieness Piano Duo with his wife and pianist, Eva Schaumkell. Together, they've performed over 40 recitals such as the InConcert Series, the Trinity Concert Series, Le Salon de Musiques, L'ermitage Foundation, Lompoc Recital Series, Masters in the Chapel Series, Waring Gala, and the Kultur unter'm Dach series in Germany. As pianist in the Aristeia Trio, Gold Medalists of the Frances Walton International Chamber Music Competition, they embarked on a 30-concert tour of Washington, appeared twice on KING-FM 89.1 FM, and have been featured on the Camerata Musica recital series and at the Irvine Performing Arts Center.

Originally from California, Mr. Venkatesh currently pursues an Artist Diploma at the Colburn School in Los Angeles with Fabio Bidini. He holds degrees from USC Thornton and IU Jacobs School of Music, where he was a recipient of the Barbara and David Jacobs Fellowship under the tutelage of Norman Krieger and André Watts. Vijay has previously studied with Jeffrey Kahane and has received artistic guidance from Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Menahem Pressler, and Murray Perahia.

(Biography current as of August 2020)