



## PRAISE FOR JOEL FAN

Live Performances: In Recital and as Soloist

**"Mr. Fan has a powerful touch and a big sound ... his playing was the picture of textural clarity... with the sparkle and rhythmic suppleness of a jazz improviser."**

Allan Kozinn, The New York Times  
(Le Poisson Rouge, New York, 2009)

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**"The Beethoven and Chopin provided ample evidence of Mr. Fan's probing intellect and vivid imagination...sounding freshly conceived and full of character. He brought steely power and a feather-light touch to Prokofiev...he reveled in the stormy hues and red-blooded Romantic gestures in Kirchner's Sonata, which was written for Mr. Fan. "**

Steve Smith, The New York Times  
(Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2008)

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**"Joel Fan is precisely the kind of performer needed to keep the classical music scene alive and vibrant. Not only immensely talented, he is a bundle of infectious energy that cannot help but catch his audience in the net of his enthusiasm. He established an immediate rapport with verbal comments preceding nearly every piece, conveying not only the nature of each work, but his understanding of its interpretation. "**

Albuquerque Journal

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**"Joel Fan, the soloist for the "Emperor Concerto," should have a halo of superlatives around his head. He sat at the piano as quietly as at a desk and proceeded to give vibrant, passionate, tender, sparkling life to the thousands of notes under his fingers. Each melodic theme seemed to grow throughout the modulatory transitions into full bloom as an organic whole. His playing of the second movement opening theme in a reverent, pianissimo whisper was one of those times when one wished the music would never end."**

The Ellsworth American

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“Beethoven’s Triple Concerto with soloists Yo-Yo Ma, Jonathan Gandelsman and Joel Fan was a delight. Rarely have three soloists been so well matched in parts that were written with such equal levels of challenge. **Fan was exceptional. His technique was exact; his touch was feathery light. His articulations were remarkably consistent.**”

The Daily Gazette, Albany

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“‘Phenomenal’ says conductor Gustav Meier of Fan’s performance. ‘I heard him perform the Brahms Piano Concerto No. 2, a very challenging piece. **He had total control and performed with such ease. He is a rare find.**”

Connecticut Post

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“The audience showed its appreciation of the work of guest artist, Fan, and the Symphony by giving them **three standing ovations and prolonged applause.** Fan graciously played an encore, the second movement of a piano sonata by Rachmaninoff. **Fan’s performance of it was sensitive, poignant and memorable.**”

Pueblo Chieftain

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“Seven Last Words suddenly came to feel dramatically and emotionally satisfying. Surely, that had something to do with **the fiercely committed, commanding performance** of soloist Joel Fan..”

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

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“The pianist Joel Fan was a **superb musician**, able to cross one style into another without any diminution in musical sophistication.”

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

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“Appearing in an unusual and memorable San Francisco recital debut, Joel Fan unveiled a well-developed musical personality, one built around intelligent eclecticism, a strong and versatile interpretive sense, and commanding technique that serves the music and avoids self-importance.”

San Francisco Classical Voice

## IN RECORDINGS

**West of the Sun, Joel Fan  
Piano Works by Nazareth, Villa-Lobos,  
Bonds, Bolcom, Piazzolla, Ginastera,  
et al. Reference Recordings, 2009**

**“West of the Sun- a well-performed and diverse disc that brilliantly demonstrates Fan’s versatility.”**

Gramophone

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**“Fan is just marvelous. His rock solid, impeccably controlled and impassioned reading is never less than world-class. A well-curated, excellently engineered program of this caliber warrants our highest recommendation.”**

Classics Today

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**“Fan’s commitment to a wide range of repertoire leads him to easily traverse the distance between world music, classical music of the 21st century, and music by Schumann and Beethoven. Fan’s rendition of Barber’s technically challenging sonata, whose knockout last movement was written at the insistence of Vladimir Horowitz, is the performance by which most listeners will judge his achievement. He acquits himself wonderfully, even when compared to Horowitz and speed demon Marc-André Hamelin. The Adagio is especially touching, and becomes more moving with repeated listening. Fan also manages to play the hair-raising final Allegro one second faster than Horowitz and seven seconds faster than Hamelin, yet never sacrifices musical coherence for dazzle.”**

San Francisco Classical Voice

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**“Joel Fan offers nine stunningly brilliant renditions drawn from a wide range of styles and sources, from Brazilians Ernesto Nazareth and Heitor Villa-Lobos, Argentina's Alberto Ginastera and Astor Piazzolla to Americans Amy Beach and Margaret Bonds. Capping it all off is an arresting interpretation of Samuel Barber's fearsome 1949 Piano Sonata. Wow.”**

The Sun, Toronto

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“Joel Fan's new disc explores music by North and South American composers, many of whom were influenced by the popular songs and traditions of their own countries. **As a member of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble, pianist Joel Fan is quite comfortable navigating through various musical worlds.** This musical voyage to the Western side of the globe is delightfully diverse. From spirituals to tangos, from bagatelles to sonatas, **music lovers will find each port of call an intriguing destination, especially in the hands of pianist Joel Fan.**”

Minnesota Public Radio

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“**Fan is an exceptionally fluent, lyrical player with a fine sense of mystery** ....the program he offers here is really fascinating. He includes some fairly unusual pieces...influenced by popular rhythms. In the full-fledged piano sonatas, the popular rhythms are a bit farther in the background but are by no means absent...The result is a program that alternates very gracefully between simpler and more complicated pieces; the music almost seems to breathe and ruminate on the nature of Americanness. With fine engineering from none other than Skywalker sound, **this is a masterful performance.**”

Allmusic Guide

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**World Keys: Virtuoso Piano Music  
Reference Recordings, 2006  
Works by Bolcom, Chen, El-Dabh, Liszt, et al.**

“**Top 3 Classical Discs of 2006:** Any newcomer daring – and secure – enough to record (American) William Bolcom, (Latvian) Peteris Vasks and (Australian) Peter Sculthorpe for his debut disc gets my attention. This young New York native holds it. **Clear from the start is his knowing grasp of each piece's inner workings, an artist's ear for piano color and a linguist's fluency of expression.** ”

The Palm Beach Post

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“Fan exhibits a high degree of musicianship and his program keeps the listener on

one's toes much more than does the typical solo piano recital. He has selected works of great musical interest, and switches from one style to another quite contrasting one with the greatest aplomb. **His playing of the 18-minute Schumann Sonata is right up there with the classic keyboardists.**"

AUDIOAUDITION.COM

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"Fan plays beautifully, turning all the spice and pizzazz into pure pleasure."

The Arizona Republic

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**"Joel Fan is a brilliant young talent...the disc is not all virtuoso work, a good deal of it requires a delicate and elegant manner, which Fan delivers with an easy grace. A highly eclectic, invigorating recital, played with terrific style by a superb young pianist."**

Fanfare Magazine