



Violinist Yi-Jia Susanne Hou flew onto the International concert scene, capturing the world's heart when she unanimously won 3 International Violin Competitions in France, Italy, and Spain (Long-Thibaud, Lipizer and Sarasate International Violin Competitions) all within a 2-year period when she was a sophomore & junior at The Juilliard School of Performing Arts in New York.

Since then, Miss Hou has traveled the world as a soloist with major orchestras in over 50 countries, collaborating with world-renowned Directors and Artists such as Mstislav Rostropovich, Pinchas Zukerman, Alan Gilbert, Vladimir Spivakov, Marcello Viotti, Andreas Delfs, Marek Janowski, and Alain Trudel, together with the London Philharmonic, Radio France, Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte Carlo, SWR Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra, WDR Cologne, Czech National Orchestra, Toronto Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, Ottawa National Arts Centre Orchestra, Calgary Philharmonic, Buffalo Philharmonic, Chicago Sinfonietta, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Singapore Symphony, Tokyo Philharmonic and Shanghai Broadcasting Orchestra, just to name a few.

Miss Hou's documentary and recording of the Beethoven Violin Concerto with the London Symphony Orchestra, as a tribute to freedom of artistic expression and an unique 300 year history of the "1735 ex-Fritz Kreisler Mary Portman Giuseppe Guarneri Del Gesu" Violin, will be made available during the course of 2015. Executive Produced by Know Rules Media, in association with Hi-BROW UK; Director, Don Boyd; Associate Producer, Stephen Wright.

On the silver screen, Miss Hou has collaborated twice with Oscar-Winning Composer Mychael Danna & Oscar-Nominated Director & Auteur Atom Egoyan. She first performed the violin solos in "Adoration" which won the Ecumenical Jury Prize at Festival de Cannes, and most recently in an upcoming film "Remember", starring Christopher Plummer, set for release in fall, 2015.

Hou's music video 'The Devil's Delight', produced by Rhombus Media (Producers: The Red Violin, Yo-Yo Ma Bach Suites), is regularly broadcast on BravoTV and she frequents the radio and television waves, starring in numerous Documentaries on CBC, PBS, Bravo!, The Today Show, Canada AM, NHK and many more.

Born into a musical family, Yi-Jia Susanne had music surrounding her all her life. Both her mother and father are violinists, and thus at the tender age of 4, she began studying violin with her father, Alec Hou. Less than a year later, she gave her first public performance and was received with a standing ovation. At nine, the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto invited her as a scholarship student. Since then, she has had scholarships and fellowships at the Aspen Music Festival for nine summers, as well as The Juilliard School where she received her BM, MM, and the highly distinguished Performance Doctorate, Artist Diploma, from the Juilliard School as a student of Dorothy DeLay, Naoko Tanaka, and Cho Liang Lin. In her (non-existent) spare time during her degree at Juilliard, Miss Hou pursued accelerated 'mechanics & relatively' studies at Columbia University.

Yi-Jia Susanne also has a deep passion for Culinary Arts and has hence begun her journey of creating 'Musical Feasts' inspired by the scientific minds at Oxford University in the United Kingdom, which capture the essence of human indulgence and taste perception, as influenced by the medium of sound & music. Her culinary collaborators include Relais Chateau Grand Chef Jonathan Gushue of Langdon Hall in Cambridge, Executive Chef Tyler Shedden of Café Boulud in Four Seasons Toronto, and this tradition will now inspire a first-in-the-world *Musical Wine: "200% Virtuoso Wine"*, which will be launched in Spring 2015 in collaboration with Award-Winning Hillside Winery and Master Wine-Maker Kathy Malone.

Yi-Jia Susanne Hou wishes to share these thoughts with her audiences:

"My parents were both great violinists of a different time and world. Their dreams of a life in music were shattered due to unforgiving world circumstances and they did not have the opportunities I have always had. Their life experiences have had a deep impact on me and have been an unwavering source of inspiration. I have never taken for granted my 'gift' of being able to pursue what I love. Too often people take opportunities for granted because we live in such a free world, but growing up knowing both my parents nearly died for what they believed in gives me the utmost appreciation and respect for our gift of life and freedom of dreams..."

In my lifetime, I hope to share with my audiences my passion and love for what I do. I hope to encourage everyone to pursue their own dreams and I hope to actively advocate cultural exchange and musical education in young and old alike. It is a grand and humble service to be an artist in our world and I merely hope to do my part."

"She's absolutely phenomenal..."

—**Lord Yehudi Menuhin**

"I was overwhelmed by the sensitivity of her playing...she is an extraordinary artist. The violin plays a huge part in the soundtrack of the film, and her detailed and highly charged performance is full of emotional nuance."

—**Atom Egoyan**

“The binding ingredient of “Adoration” is its rich, violin-soaked musical soundtrack by Mychael Danna. Its mood of sorrowful sensuality evokes the troubled histories of flesh-and-blood people whose complicated personal stories, if we knew them, might or might not provide reasons for heinous crimes against humanity.”

—**The NY Times**

“The score is based on a simple haunting melody on solo violin, both romantic and mysterious. This music was originally written specifically for Susanne to play; I have always adored the restrained and intelligent passion of her playing, and her interpretation of Adoration is what graces the soundtrack in the film.”

—**Mychael Danna**

“Hou’s performance was of the greatest and highest international level. She is fragile, but only at first sight. Her sound is crafted and rich; the g-string getting under your skin...”

—**Christophe Huss, Le Devoir, Canada**

“Hou is remarkable, her playing an idealistic dream of perfection, her sound full of humanity, sweetness and musical understanding and projected on her superb Guarneri del Gesu violin with heart-stopping purity in her uppermost register and a richly resonant sound on the lowest strings.

Playing such as this, flawless, filled with light and meaning, makes you feel shy, as if you were witnessing a miracle, something for which there is no explanation, only highly sensitized awareness.”

—**Stephen Pedersen, Chronicle Herald, Halifax, Nova Scotia**

“It sometimes seems that the world is mass-producing great instrumentalists. What sets Yi-Jia Susanne Hou apart from her many brilliant contemporaries is a style of playing that combines the executant skill of today’s best with the expressiveness of violinists 50 to 150 years ago...I cannot recall hearing a violinist in a live performance who could coax as big a tone out of a violin; she can also draw a fine-spun pianissimo.”

—**Robert McColley, Fanfare Magazine USA**

“Her sound is strangely strong yet delicate; her technique near flawless...”

—**The Strad**

“Wearing an elegant gown, Hou, making her fifth appearance with the orchestra, demonstrated an admirable ability to put the audience at ease, as if guests in her living room, yet still convey the depth and gravity of emotion in Bruch’s music...this concerto makes great use of double-, triple-, even quadruple-stops, and Hou sailed through them clearly and seemingly without effort...(the 2nd movement was) lyrically beautiful, it felt as if each note was given individual care...and hearing Kreisler’s music (encore) played on his violin was indeed a pleasure.”

—**Keila Huss, Daily Breeze Los Angeles, California**

“From the very first phrase, Hou demonstrated that she is the possessor of a gigantic sound, a perfectly centered tone, and a deep understanding of musical structure. She showed absolute confidence and mastery in every respect of her program, which extended from Beethoven to Kreisler, and easily exuded the star quality that has put her in the spotlight as a lead violinist...”

—**Greg Stepanich, Palm Beach Arts Paper, Florida**