Piano takes over

From masterly piano trios, to hypnotic Afro-Caribbean rhythms and virtuoso piano playing, over the next week, the Pharos Arts Foundation will be offering audiences three powerful pianothemed recitals at the Shoe Factory in old Nicosia.

The first concert coming up this Friday introduces the newly established Pharos Piano Trio, an ensemble consisting of three highly talented soloists who are also close collaborators of the Foundation.

The Pharos Piano Trio comprises of the recently appointed Concertmaster of the Berlin Philharmonic, violinist Daishin Kashimoto; the artistic director of the International Pharos Chamber Music Festival, cellist Alexander Chaushian; and British pianist Ashley Wass, considered as one of the greatest pianists of his generation. For their first concert as an ensemble, the Pharos Piano Trio will perform Mendelssohn's Piano Trio No. 2 in C Minor, Op. 66, Beethoven's Piano Trio in E

flat Major, Op. 1 No. 1 and Brahms' Piano Trio No. 1 in B major, Op. 8. Moving along from this popular form of chamber music, lovers of jazz piano, Latin-flavoured music, and the elegance and power of jazz icon – Keith Jarrett's playing, will find all this and more, when the Edward Simon Trio jets in to perform live at the Shoe Factory on Tuesday.

Simon hails from Venezuela and also brings some Cuban flavour along in his lively yet measured style that has established him as a unique talent, transcending conventional genres. Regarded as one of the most soughtafter artists on the international jazz scene, Simon along with his breathtaking rhythm section (Jeremy Brown on bass and Stephen Keogh on drums), will create a spellbinding concert that will have your toes tapping to music that embodies sweet lyricism and dancing grooves.

The final concert this month features

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Malaysian pianist Mei Yi Foo – an artist who is fast becoming one of the most respected young performers of her generation. Since the release of her critically acclaimed debut recording Foo has been hailed as 'a pianist to watch' by BBC Radio 3 and as a 'Rising Star' by *International Piano* magazine.

Recent performances at venues like Wigmore Hall have earned her reputation as an outstanding musician with a truly distinctive character and as a pianist who is at home in repertoire ranging from Bach to Ligeti.

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For next Thursday's recital audiences can look forward to repertoire that includes preludes by Bach, Rachmaninov, Shostakovich, and the Romantic English composer, York Bowen. For those interested in attending in any of

the above recitals, keep in mind that seating is limited and is therefore advised you book your seats in advance.

Pharos Piano and Concert Recitals At the Shoe Factory, 304 Ermou Street, old Nicosia. All performances start at 8.30pm. Tel: 22-663 871/22-665 155. www.cyprustickets.com

November 20: Pharos Piano Trio
Three, highly-talented and internationally-acclaimed soloists who are also close collaborators of the Foundation. €20 / 15.
November 24: The Shoe Factory Goes Jazz
Edward Simon's Jazz Trio. €22 / 17.
November 26: Mei Yi Foo Piano Recital
Malaysian pianist hailed as one of the world's
rising stars. €22 / 17.

By Ledha Socratous

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