

vibes to our family.

Q: Can you name some of your favorite cities?

A: I like Berlin, Germany, because I spent most of my 20s there, and I have lots of precious memories. I especially miss all the little streets where I'd walk, and the lovely weather in summer. I like so much of Italy, especially Rome, Firenze, and Milan. It's an unbelievably amazing country with its historical basis, beautiful weather and nature, and "so good" food! I never had a chance to live in New York, but every time when I visit, I feel so alive. Every visit gives such a different impression of this city... I never get bored.

My dream city to visit is Paris. I do love where I am right now — Los Angeles. It's full of brightness and inspiration, and has a sublime nature.

Q: What would you like to do next, professionally or personally?

A: I love and enjoy what I am doing as a profession. Although there are many challenging moments and efforts needed behind the scenes, these are the part of my joy. The most fruitful moments are at the very end, and especially meeting the audience after the performance.

This fall I'll become a new faculty member of the community school at the Colburn Conservatory of Music, where I graduate with the artist diploma degree this May. As a teacher, I would love to contribute back to the community what I have learned from my teacher, Mr. Bidini, parents and life experiences.

On a personal level, I pursue the happiness, which means that I am happy when those in my community are happy because of my existence. I want to be a good part of the community and a person that gives a positive influence. That makes me the happiest.

I love to cook, especially for others; I love to travel, although I haven't had many chances for traveling without performing. I love to watch the sunset in the ocean and walk on the shore. Strangely enough, I still don't know how to swim — after almost three years of living in Los Angeles, I guess now it's time to learn swimming.

Q: What are some strange things that have happened to you while traveling or in a concert?

A: A minor thing — sometimes there often may not be a piano available backstage for practice, so I have to be on stage with "cold hands" without warming up. Luckily the concerts went successfully... so maybe it is just my psychological fear.

One time in Madrid, three hours before the concert, a thief stole my bag with all my ID, phone, etc. I was crying during the rehearsal — it was a nightmare. Fortunately, the concert again went well. I met a Korean Embassy member there who helped me to travel back afterward. On a pleasant note, I love to travel to "concertize," especially in new places. Last year I joined in the Marvão festival in Portugal. Marvão is a unique and gorgeous hill top town — I enjoyed being there.

I love to meet the audience after the concert, seeing them inspired or impressed by the music itself. These are the kinds of moments money can't buy, that I appreciate the most with my career.

I can't wait to be in Naples to share my music making and to see some dolphins and alligators, with such beautiful weather.

Tickets for the upcoming Naples show may be purchased at www.grandpiano-series.com. ■

SET SAIL for Summer!

2017 CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE
tripadvisor

Key West Express
1-888-538-7428

GET AWAY FROM ONLY \$125 ROUND TRIP!

Enjoy a tropical drink from the bar or bite to eat from the galley as your adventure begins. Sit back and relax within one of the air conditioned cabins or take in the sun and soft ocean breezes from the sun decks. You'll arrive in comfort and luxury within walking distance of all there is to see and do on this idyllic palm lined island surrounded by crystal blue waters.

Book Your Trip Today!

VACATION SPOT OF PIRATES, POETS, PRESIDENTS & PARTYGOERS!

Key West Express
Ft. Myers Beach • Key West • Marco Island
1-800-593-7259
keywestexpress.net

*Minimum 8 day advance purchase, non-refundable fare. Cannot be combined with other offers. Weekend fee applies to any travel Friday thru Sunday. Expires August 31, 2018. Online purchases.

GET READY FOR YOUR NAUTICAL ADVENTURE!
FASTER THAN DRIVING, CHEAPER THAN FLYING, THE BEST WAY TO TRAVEL

MERCATO NIGHTS MUSIC SERIES

THE Folk & Jazz Infused Indie WOODWORK

On the lawn across from
Silverspot Cinema

FREE ADMISSION
LAWN CHAIRS WELCOME

6 PM
THURS
JULY 7

SPONSORED BY

Audi Naples

Naples | Acura



MERCATO



Located just north of Vanderbilt Beach Road on U.S. 41
239.254.1080 • MercatoShops.com

Summer Concert Series

July 5 Roots Almighty

August 2 Little Eddie & the Fat Fingers

September 6 Rockin' Horse