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朗朗 LANG LANG

29岁即已征服了整个古典音乐世界的中国钢琴家

At age 29, the pianist has conquered the classical world

采访: Interview by Mark Huber

国际钢琴盛宴: 朗朗的父亲是中国空军某基地军乐队的乐手, 朗朗自小随父亲在基地长大。他不记得自己曾经乘坐过的飞机, 但是他清楚地记得要在飞机上观看美国电视卡通节目, 因为在动画片播放过程中通常会响起经典音乐, 这是激发他学习钢琴的热情。他自三岁起开始正式学习钢琴, 两年后, 已经荣获独奏奖项。

十四岁时, 他已成为中国国家交响乐团的主要独奏乐手。一年后, 他来到美国继续在费城柯蒂斯音乐学院深造。不久后, 朗朗便开始世界音乐会巡演, 深受好评。十九岁时, 他在卡内基音乐厅办了一场演奏会, 票房一抢而空。

2009年, 诺曼·莱布雷希特在《伦敦旗帜晚报》中写道, 朗朗“在全世界许多地区, 比甲壳虫乐队的知名度更高”。另外, 据美国国家公共广播电台报道, “朗朗用精湛技术和超凡魅力已经征服了整个古典音乐世界”。

事实上, 在大家看来, 朗朗的职业比中国发展得更为迅速, 每年至少举办130场音乐会的他俨然已是当年的凡克莱本。他是众多重大国际表演开场节目的表演者, 包括2008年在北京举办的夏季奥运会、在瑞士达沃斯举办的世界经济论坛、以及在挪威奥斯陆举办的诺贝尔颁奖典礼。他以数百万美元的高价, 与索尼签订了音乐录制合同, 庞巴迪商务喷气机公司称他为“大使”。

大众文化已经深入他的骨髓。他参加过《六十分钟》和《欧普拉》。他是《时代》杂志2009年评选的“百名全球最具影响力人物”之一。他的畅销自传书《千里之行》(2008)已被翻译成八种语言。儿童版《键盘飞扬》在全球掀起了一股热潮, 激发孩子们纷纷学习钢琴。这种现象被称为“朗朗效应”。此时他还只是一个年仅29岁的年轻小伙。

然而, 并不是每个人都喜欢朗朗。也有些音乐评论家不喜欢朗朗那热情澎湃的演奏风格, 为他起了一个绰号——“棒棒”, 只差没称他是穿着套领毛衣的利伯洛斯转世了。

对于这样的批判, 朗朗并不介意。他是一位非常谦虚且平易近人的音乐家, 仍然将自己的成功在一定程度上归功于在十二年前所取得的“幸运的突破”——那年, 他为了顶替安德烈·瓦兹的缺席, 在最后一刻登台出演了芝加哥附近的音乐会。自那晚之后, 朗朗便开始声名大噪, 而他也乐于其中。

到目前为止, 你乘坐私人飞机最愉快的旅行经验是怎样的?

我通常和我母亲以及我的管理团队一起出行。然而, 有一次, 我和一些朋友乘坐全球快车在国内的一次航

INTERNATIONAL PIANO SENSATION LANG LANG GREW up on a Chinese air force base where his father played in the military band. He doesn't remember much about the airplanes there, but he does recall watching American television cartoons, with their animation often mated to classical music, and credits them for his desire to learn piano. He began formal lessons at age three and two years later was already winning recital awards.

By age 14, he was the featured soloist with the China National Symphony and, a year later, he came to America to continue his training at Philadelphia's Curtis Institute. Soon Lang Lang was playing concerts internationally to rave reviews. By 19, he had sold out Carnegie Hall.

In 2009, the *London Evening Standard's* Norman Lebrecht wrote that Lang Lang was “more famous in many parts of the world than the Beatles.” American National Public Radio, meanwhile, gushed, “Lang Lang has conquered the classical world with dazzling technique and charisma.”

Indeed, it appears that his career is sprouting quickly and that Lang Lang—who performs at least 130 concerts a year—is becoming the Van Cliburn of his age. He plays at the opening of major international events, including the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics; the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland; and the Nobel Prize ceremonies in Oslo, Norway. He has a multimillion-dollar recording contract with Sony and Bombardier business jets named him a brand ambassador.

He's firmly infused in the popular culture. He's been on American television's *60 Minutes* and *Oprah*. In 2009, *Time* magazine in the U.S. named him one of the “100 Most Influential People In The World.” His bestselling 2008 biography, *Journey of a Thousand Miles*, has been translated into eight languages. A children's version of the book, called *Playing with Flying Keys*, has helped to create a global tsunami of kids lining up to take piano lessons. There is even a name for this. It's called the “Lang Lang Effect.” All rather heady stuff for a guy who's just 29.

Not everyone loves him, though. A handful of music critics who weren't fond of his passionate style of play gave him the name “Bang Bang,” doing everything short of calling him the reincarnation of Liberace in a turtleneck.

Such criticism doesn't seem to bother Lang Lang, a highly approachable and humble musician who still gives at least some of

班上一起开派对。我们一起喝香槟，看电影。非常开心。

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“WHEN YOU SIT ON A COMMERCIAL PLANE IT IS LIKE VERY HARD PRACTICE. WHEN YOU ARE ON A PRIVATE JET IT IS LIKE, ‘WOW-LIFE IS GREAT.’”

你比较喜欢坐私人飞机还是搭航班？

私人飞机上有你所需要的任何物品。包括各种各样的食品和饮料。也不需为安检排队而浪费时间。坐在商业飞机上时，时间很难熬。而坐在私人飞机上时，我很想说：“哇——生活真是太棒了！”

你大部分时间住在哪里？

难说，真的。一般都是在酒店房间或者飞机上。

在北京奥运会上，面对十亿以上的观众演奏，感觉如何？

那是我一辈子最宝贵的经验，但不是最令人兴奋的。当你取得一项巨大而又幸运的突破时，那更加令人兴奋，因为在此之前，你还是一个无名小卒。

你当时取得了怎样的“巨大而又幸运的突破”呢？

那是在1999年夏天，我为了顶替安德烈·瓦兹的缺席，在最后一刻登台出演了芝加哥附近的音乐会。那不是一场普通的音乐会。它被称作“世纪音乐会”，参演的有芝加哥交响乐团和偶像乐人物艾萨克·斯特恩（著名小提琴家，于2001年逝世）。事实上，是他推荐我的。那真正是我的幸运之神。

the credit for his success to the “lucky break” he got about 12 years ago, when he filled in at the last minute for Andre Watts at a concert near Chicago. Since that night, it’s been a wild ride, and Lang Lang appears to be enjoying every minute of it.

What has been your favorite trip so far in a private jet?

I usually travel with my mother and my management team. But one time I had a party on a Global Express with some friends on a flight within China. We had champagne and watched movies. That was fun.

How does flying privately compare with airline travel for you?

On a private jet you have everything. You have all kinds of food and drinks and you are not wasting time on a security line. When you sit on a commercial plane it is like very hard practice. When you are on a private jet it is like, “Wow-life is great.”

Where do you live most of the time?

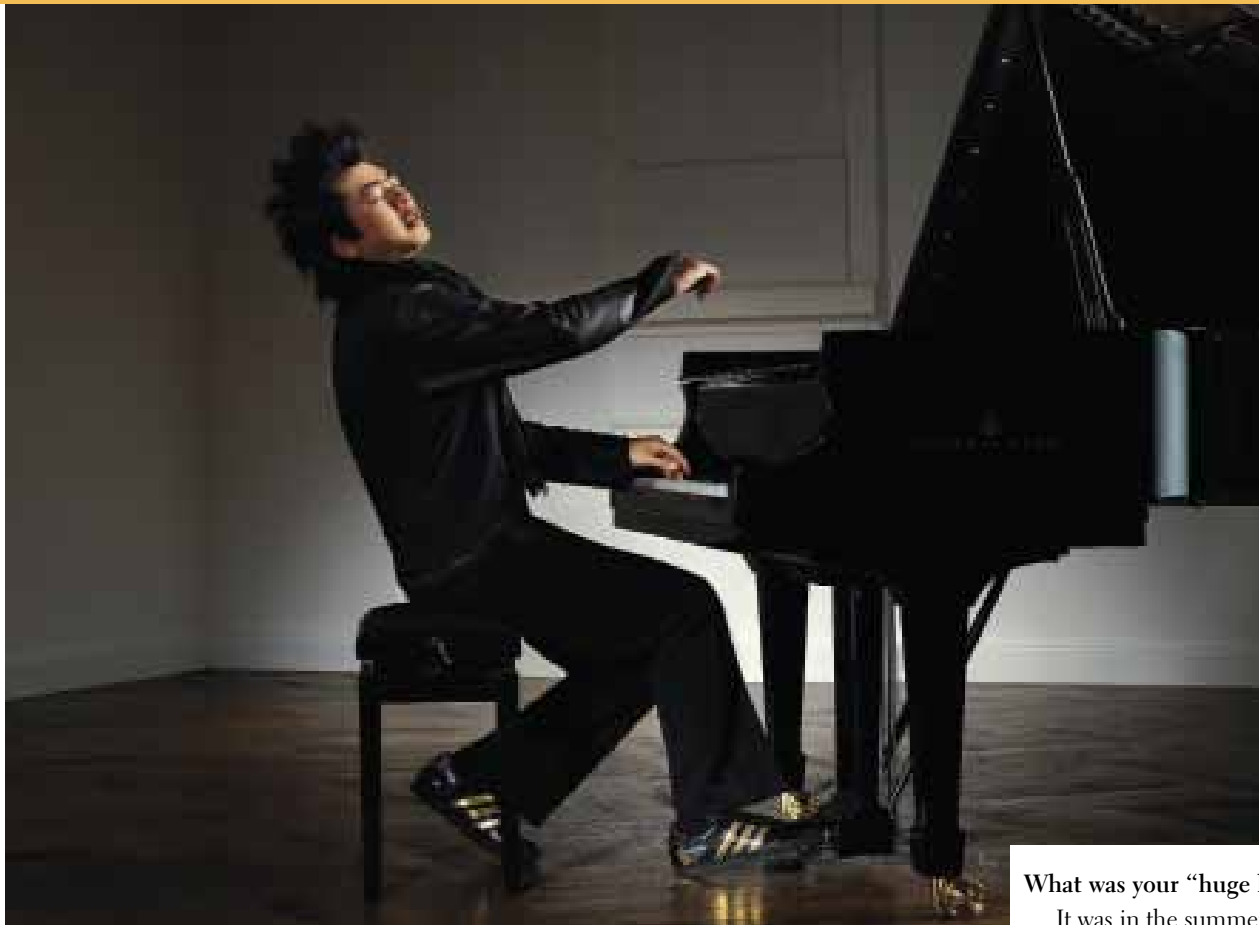
Hard to say, really. It is hotel rooms and airplanes.

What did it feel like to play at the Beijing Olympics, knowing that more than a billion people might be watching you?

It was the experience of a lifetime but not the most exciting moment of my life. When you have that one huge lucky break, that is even more exciting, because [before it] you were a nobody.



COURTESY OF BOMBARDIER



"I WOULD LIKE TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT AND RECORD AN ALBUM WITH MANY KINDS OF ARTISTS, INCLUDING JAZZ AND COUNTRY."

事实快报

姓名: 朗朗

年龄: 29

职业: 古典音乐家

出行方式: 由庞巴迪公司提供的私人飞机。最喜爱的是全球快车XRS和里尔60XR。

个人资料: 主要居住在纽约市，单身，喜欢看电影和运动。

Fast Facts

NAME: Lang Lang

AGE: 29

OCCUPATION: Classical pianist

TRANSPORTATION: Private jets supplied by Bombardier. Favorites are Global Express XRS and Learjet 60XR.

PERSONAL: Lives primarily in New York City. Single. Enjoys watching movies and professional sports.

“我想来一个颠覆，和许多不同的艺术家合作录制一张专辑，包括爵士乐和乡村音乐。”

你在书中讲述了一个故事，大概内容是：在你九岁时，父亲规定，如果试演失败，就必须自杀。那段插曲对你的生活产生了怎样的影响？

那真的太夸张了，我痛苦了很长一段时间。但是我的父亲在这些年来已经变了许多，我们现在是很好的朋友。一切都好。

你最喜欢自己所演奏的哪首曲子？

真的很难选。就像有人问你：“你最爱吃什么？”在不同的时间，你所喜爱的食物也不同。就现在来讲，我喜欢莫扎特，因为那是我明天晚上将要演奏的作品。但是，下个星期，我要演奏别的曲子。我很善变。

你喜欢的音乐家还有哪些呢？

我喜欢卢恰诺·帕瓦罗蒂、普拉西多·多明戈、安德烈·波切利、还有里奥纳德·伯恩斯坦。我也喜欢流行音乐家，譬如贾斯汀·汀布莱克和克里斯汀娜·阿奎莱拉。

有一位作家说过，你比甲壳虫乐队的知名度还高。你认为是这样的吗？

当然没有。甲壳虫乐队太棒了。我正在计划和保罗·麦卡特尼联手举办一次音乐会。我第一次见他是在伦敦桥颁奖典礼上。他非常幽默。他说：“你是古典音乐家，我也是经典的古典摇滚音乐家。”

What was your “huge lucky break”?

It was in the summer of 1999 when I was the substitute for Andre Watts at the Ravinia Festival north of Chicago. It was not a normal concert. It was called the “Concert of the Century” with the Chicago Symphony and the iconic Isaac Stern [the renowned violinist who died in 2001]. He actually introduced me to the audience. That was absolutely my lucky break.

In your book, you relate a story of how your father ordered you to kill yourself after you failed an audition when you were nine. How did that episode affect your life?

It was a real crazy moment and very painful for a long time. But my father has changed a lot over the years and now we are good friends, so it's OK.

What is the one favorite piece of music you play?

Really hard to say. It is like asking, “What is your favorite food?” At different times you like different foods. Today it is Mozart because that is what I am playing tomorrow night. But next week I am playing something else. I am always changing.

Who are some of the other musicians you listen to?

I like Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo, Andrea Bocelli and Leonard Bernstein, but I also like popular musicians like Justin Timberlake and Christina Aguilera.

One writer said you are more famous than the Beatles. Do you think you are?

Of course not. The Beatles are amazing and I had a great opportunity to plan an event with Paul McCartney. I had met him the first time at the London Bridge awards and he was really funny. He said, “You are a classical musician and I am also classic-classic rock.”

你在表演时，经常感到紧张吗？

我一直在努力做到精准、激昂。这一直是我所努力要达到的目标。每场音乐会，对于我以及观众而言，都是一次对生命的体验。

你和许多艺术家同台演出过。你会不会常常冒出想尝试其它类型的音乐的想法呢？

当然。我想来一个颠覆，有可能是《夏日时光》（乔治·盖希文的爵士标准《乞丐与荡妇》），或者和许多不同的艺术家合作录制一张专辑，包括爵士乐和乡村音乐。我还没有构想好。但是，我确信，爵士乐一定会妙不可言。2009年，我和赫比·汉考合手举办了一次二重奏巡演，我们在美国的七座城市以及欧洲的十座城市都有演出。在如何即兴表演、如何开发自己对爵士和声的灵感等方面，我从他身上学到了很多。

你有哪些爱好？

看电影是我最大的爱好。我正在向索尼影视电影厂迈进，一些朋友也正在带我了解电影界。

我喜欢运动。昨天晚上，我非常幸运地参加了休斯顿的演出。我的同胞姚明为休斯顿火箭队（NBA篮球队）出赛。赛后我和他、他的妻子以及父母共进晚餐。我们有许多共同点，其原因不仅是因为我们都是中国人，还因为我们分别成长为一个音乐家和一位运动员的过程有许多相似之处。那种感觉太棒了。看NBA篮球赛或者欧洲杯，让我获得了许多灵感。

你每天练习钢琴几个小时？

我以前每天练习七个小时，现在只练习两个小时，有时候甚至时间更短，因为许多时间都花在旅途上。但是，坐在庞巴迪喷气飞机上，我可以有更多的时间来练习，因为这样节省了许多旅途时间。

你已经获得了许多荣誉。你的下一个大目标是什么呢？

我成立了朗朗国际音乐基金会，目标是通过提供奖学金，帮助年轻人实现学习音乐的梦想。我有一个目标，就是为支持下一代音乐家而尽力，帮助学校开办课余音乐班。我想加入到老师和志愿者的队伍中去，为音乐学子们营造更健康的环境，因为我们现在正处在一个十分困难的时期，尤其是在美国，各院校纷纷削减预算。他们做的第一件事就是削减艺术和音乐的预算。这种环境很不健康。



你谈了许多有关你要当第一名的理想。第一名对于你而言，意味着什么？

它意味着你要尽最大努力。事实上它并不是一个数字，它是一项承诺，对自己的要求、意愿和目标。做真实的自己，就一定能够做到最好。这是我对“第一名”的理解。

Have you always played with a lot of physical intensity?

I always try to play very precise and very passionate. That is always what I try to achieve. Every concert, for me and for the audience, is a life experience.

You've played with a wide variety of artists. Are you tempted to pursue other genres more often?

Sure. I would like to do something totally different, maybe "Summertime" [the jazz standard from George Gershwin's *Porgy & Bess*], and record an album with many kinds of artists, including jazz and country. I haven't figured it out yet, but certainly the jazz will be incredible. [In 2009] I had a duets tour with Herbie Hancock and we played seven cities in the U.S. and 10 in Europe. I learned a lot from him on how to improvise and develop an instinct for jazz harmony.

Do you have any hobbies?

Movies are my biggest hobby. I am actually now on my way to Sony Pictures Studios, where some friends are going to show me around.

I love sports. Last night I had the great privilege to perform in Houston, where my countryman, Yao Ming, plays for the Houston Rockets [NBA basketball team]. I had a really nice dinner with him and his wife and parents. There were so many things that we had in common, not only because we are both Chinese, but because so many things are similar growing up as a musician or as an athlete. It was really cool. I gain a lot of inspiration watching NBA games or European soccer championships.

How many hours a day do you practice?

It used to be seven hours and now it is only two, sometimes even less because of my traveling. But with the Bombardier jets I can practice more because I save a lot of travel time.

You've already accomplished much in your life. What is your next big goal?

I started the Lang Lang International Music Foundation, whose aim is to help young people learn music by providing scholarships. I have one goal and it is to help support the next generation of musicians and help schools create after-school music classes. I want to work with teachers and volunteers to help create a healthier environment for music studies, because we are in very difficult times, especially in the United States, with schools cutting budgets. The very first thing they do is to cut art and music. This is very unhealthy.

You talk a lot about the need to be number one. What does being number one mean to you?

It means to do your best. It is not really a number, it is a commitment, your discipline, your will and your goal. If you are true to yourself, you will get the best out of yourself. That is my understanding of number one. ■