

Fiery Virtuosity and Intellectual Depth

Posted on

Karl Lutchmayer Live in Colombo



Pianist Dr. Karl Lutchmayer, renowned for bringing performance and insightful commentary together.

There is an indisputable magic when high culture meets tropical air, and this October, Colombo is set to become the epicenter of international piano virtuosity. The star of the evening?

Dr. Karl Lutchmayer – a fiery virtuoso, brilliant scholar, and effortlessly gifted communicator whose performances blend jaw-dropping technique with sharp public

conversation.

Welcoming the soloist, Chamber Music Society of Colombo Artistic Director Lakshman Joseph-de Saram shared: “We are happy to welcome Karl to Colombo. He is a musician of extraordinary intellect and physical energy, and bringing artists of his caliber to our audiences is at the very heart of the CMSC’s vision.”



Lakshman Joseph-de Saram, Artistic Director, Chamber Music Society of Colombo.

Lutchmayer, an international figure who has graced stages across four continents, is no stranger to grand spaces or storied collaborators. He has worked alongside legendary conductors such as Sir Andrew Davis and Lorin Maazel, performed with the Philharmonia Orchestra, and charmed audiences through broadcasts on BBC Television, Radio, and Classic FM.

In the UK, he is beloved for his signature Conversational Concerts, where insightful commentary seamlessly weaves into brilliant performance, redefining how we listen. A champion of both modern composition and forgotten masterworks – boasting over 90 world premieres and a universally acclaimed 2025 Chandos recording of Busoni alongside Peter Donohoe, praised by Gramophone and

International Piano – Lutchmayer brings a unique, expansive perspective to Colombo.

The programmed recital offers nothing short of a compact biography of the piano itself, tracing its transformation from an intimate salon companion to an instrument of explosive drama. The Evening's Repertoire: Beethoven: Sonata in B-flat major, Op. 22 – Opening the evening, this masterpiece straddles classical elegance and defiant power, pushing structural boundaries with soaring tension and playful brilliance.

Haydn: Sonata in C major, Hob. XVI:50 – A showcase of late-period mastery, packed with sharp wit, theatrical pauses, and unexpected harmonic twists.

Grieg: Notturmo, Op. 54 No. 4 – A lush change of atmosphere, floating on evocative melodies that feel rooted in wild, evocative landscapes.

Brahms: Three Intermezzi, Op. 117 – Deeply personal late-period “lullabies” filled with tender romance, quiet reflection, and subtle shadows of nostalgia.

Ravel: Ondine (from Gaspard de la Nuit) – The keyboard dissolves into liquid color. Inspired by a water nymph, Ravel's extreme demands render an illusion of shimmering weightlessness.

Liszt: Three Paganini Etudes – The ultimate grand finale. Reimagining Paganini's legendary violin feats for piano, Liszt delivers a display of high-energy fireworks. Whether you are a seasoned classical connoisseur or looking for the season's most sophisticated night out, this concert promises to be a standout moment on the cultural calendar.

Karl Lutchmayer in Recital;

Advanced Piano Masterclass: October 10, 2026. Time: 6:30pm. Venue: Goethe-Institut Hall (Free entry);

Recital: October 11, 2026. Time: 7pm. Venue: Goethe-Institut Hall, Colombo;

Tickets: Rs. 3,000 (Free seating) (ticketsministry.com)