

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Pinna Records Releases Solomon Ge's *Threnody***

*Pianist performs music he composed in response to the global pandemic*

**SAN FRANCISCO, May 1, 2023**—Pinna Records is pleased to announce that the premiere recording by pianist Solomon Ge, featuring his composition [Threnody](#) for solo piano, will be released on May 26, 2023.

Says Ge of his piece:

I began writing *Threnody* around the start of the shelter in place order in March 2020 and completed it towards the end of the year. My piece expresses my thoughts and feelings about the state of the world during the pandemic, with all its chaos, turbulence, and loss of life. I was very interested in the waves of dissonant overtones and the musical tension that could be generated from repeating a set of pitches very many times while holding down the pedal, and I wanted to use this effect to create a slowly morphing storm of sound, which erupts into violent climax before receding back once again. My work is loosely dedicated to all who have suffered during this pandemic.

This recording originates with a performance Ge gave at Old First Concerts in San Francisco in early 2022. “I saw that Solomon was playing Ravel’s *Sonatine*, which I’d never heard performed,” recalls producer Roger Rohrbach. “So I went.” After Ge’s “thoroughly satisfying” rendition of the Ravel, he played his own piece. “I was thunderstruck. It hit me in a very profound way. I immediately knew what it was ‘about’.”

A recent personal tragedy had primed Rohrbach for this music. In September 2021, his thirteen-year-old niece had taken her own life. “She was vivacious, a good student, a swimmer and skater. In the span of eighteen months, the pandemic robbed her of the ability to attend school, socialize, and practice sports, just as she hit puberty. There’s an op-ed every other week about the mental health crisis for American teens, especially girls. There are many theories about what’s going on, but I know this: had there been no pandemic, Mirabel would be alive today.”

With the composer-performer’s blessings, all proceeds from this digital-only release will be donated to the [Jed Foundation](#), an organization working directly to support the emotional health and resilience of teens and young adults. In support of the fundraising effort, designer [Denise Burt](#) has donated an edition of 10 giclée prints of her album artwork. The signed, numbered prints are available for \$100.

*Threnody* will be available from the Pinna Records online store, Bandcamp, and Apple Music, with worldwide digital distribution by the state51 Conspiracy.

### **About the Artist**

[Solomon Ge](#) is a pianist and composer from San Jose, CA. A graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, he currently studies at the New England Conservatory. In 2021, he won First Prize at the Arthur Fraser International Piano Competition and the Ann & Charles Eisemann International Young Artists Competition. He has performed with the Minnesota Orchestra and as a soloist at festivals in Europe and Asia. Most recently he toured the Baltic States and Finland with the San Jose Youth Symphony.

### **About Pinna Records**

San Francisco-based [Pinna Records](#) releases music by contemporary composers. Producer Roger Rohrbach, who founded the label in 2013, explains, “The *pinna* is the visible part of the ear. Like a fingerprint, it is unique to the individual; and our ears, rather than any specific agenda, guide our decisions about what to record and release.” Other Pinna releases feature music by Frederic Rzewski, Mamoru Fujieda, Danny Clay and Jenny Olivia Johnson, and performances by Sarah Cahill, Friction Quartet and Giacomo Fiore.

### **Contact**

Roger Rohrbach  
+1 (415) 203-2912  
[roger@pinnarecords.com](mailto:roger@pinnarecords.com)

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