VANGUARD CONCERTS PRESENTS PIANIST GEORGE LI, MARCH 23

(DAYTON, OHIO) – March 14, 2012 – Vanguard Concerts presents its third concert in the 51st season of Chamber Music at The Dayton Art Institute’s NCR Renaissance Auditorium on Saturday, March 23, at 8:00 p.m. Vanguard is particularly excited to present 17-year-old pianist, GEORGE LI, who promises to give a spectacular performance.

Praised by the Washington Post for combining, “staggering technical prowess, a sense of command and depth of expression,” Li possesses brilliant virtuosity and effortless grace far beyond his years. In 2012 alone, Li won the Gilmore Young Artist Award and received the Tabor Foundation Piano Award at the Verbier Academy. Highlights of his busy 2012-2013 season include appearances as soloist with the Edmonton and Stamford Symphonies, the Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle, the Boise Philharmonic, the Pasadena Symphony and Pops, the Boston Philharmonic, and the Norrkoping Orchestra in Sweden, as well as recitals at the Morgan Library & Museum, the Buffalo Chamber Music Society, and the Mansion at Strathmore.

First Prize winner in the 2011 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, Li’s highly acclaimed New York debut at age 16 opened the 51st Young Concert Artists Series in the Peter Marino Concert at Merkin Concert Hall. YCA also presented his debut in Washington D.C. at the Kennedy Center, sponsored by the Alexander Kasza-Kasser Prize. Li has appeared in recital at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, the Irving S Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, the Vancouver Recital Society at Shriver Hall and the Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, among others.

As First Prize winner of the inaugural Cooper Competition at Oberlin Conservatory of Music, he appeared as soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra. He has also performed as soloist with orchestras including the Spartanburg Philharmonic, the Akron Symphony, the Xiamen Philharmonic in China, the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra in Venezuela, the Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra, and with “I Solisti di Perugia” in Italy. He played Beethoven’s Concerto No. 4 with the New England Conservatory Youth Philharmonic under Benjamin Zander on a European Tour.

In 2011, Li performed for President Obama at the White House in an evening honoring Chancellor Angela Merkel. He was chosen to appear at the opening ceremony of Boston’s new Institute of Contemporary Art and the inauguration President Tony Woodcock at the New England Conservatory, and has performed for members of the U.S. congress at the Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.
Li gave his first public performance at Boston’s Steinway Hall at the age of ten. At ages six and seven, he won First Prize in the Massachusetts Music Teachers Association Competition. He attends the Walnut Hill School for the Arts and studies piano at the New England Conservatory with Wha Kyung Byun.

Li’s program in Dayton will be:

Sonata No. 14 in C sharp minor, Op. 27.No. 2 (“Moonlight”), Ludwig Van Beethoven
Sonata No. 21 In C major, Op. 53 (“Waldstein”), Ludwig van Beethoven
Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 35, Frederic Chopin
Consolation No. 3 in D flat major, Franz Liszt
Concert Paraphrase on Rigoletto, S.434, Verdi/Liszt

Tickets for the performance are priced at $20 for adults and $15 for students. Tickets may be purchased in advance at Hauer Music Co. (120 S. Patterson Blvd. in downtown Dayton), the Wright State University Center Box Office, and McCutcheon Music Store (38 Marco Lane in Centerville), online at www.daytonartinstitute.org/vanguard, or by phone at 937-436-0244. Tickets may also be purchased at The Dayton Art Institute the night of the concert.

For more information about this and other programs at The Dayton Art Institute, please visit www.daytonartinstitute.org or call the museum at 937-223-4ART (4278). Be sure to also connect with The Dayton Art Institute on Facebook and Twitter for additional information and exclusive offers.

ABOUT THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE
As one of the Miami Valley’s premier fine art museums, The Dayton Art Institute offers a full range of programming in addition to exhibiting its collection. Galleries hours are Tuesday – Friday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday, noon – 5 p.m. With support from the Chase Endowment Fund, suggested admission to the museum’s permanent collection is $8 adults, $5 seniors, active military and groups. Admission is free for museum members, students (18+ w/ID) and youth (17 and under). Some special exhibitions, programs and events may carry an additional charge and include admission to the museum’s permanent collection as part of that price. Free parking is available at the museum and the facility is fully accessible to physically challenged visitors. The DAI’s new Museum Store and Leo Bistro are now open during regular museum hours. For more information, please call 937-223-4ART (4278) or visit www.daytonartinstitute.org. The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this organization with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The DAI also receives support from the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District.

ABOUT VANGUARD CONCERTS
Vanguard Concerts is a non-profit organization founded in 1962 by Vince and Elana Bolling to present world-class chamber music at The Dayton Art Institute, following the lead of such major institutions as New York’s Metropolitan and Frick Museums, and those of Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Philadelphia and Los Angeles.

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