CONNOR CHEE

COMPOSER & PIANIST

Connor Chee is a GRAMMY-nominated Diné (Navajo) composer and pianist whose work brings together his classical training and the cultural heritage of the Navajo people. Through both composition and performance, he explores storytelling, identity, and relationships with the natural world, creating music rooted in personal experience and Indigenous perspectives.

Chee made his Carnegie Hall debut at age 12 after winning a gold medal in the World Piano Competition. He has since performed across the United States, including at the National Gallery of Art, and his music has been heard on NPR's *Performance Today*. As a recording artist, he has released six solo albums, including *Sandpaintings for Piano* (2026), a collection inspired by Navajo sandpainting traditions, and *Across the Desert: The Long Walk Home* (2023), which reflects on the history and resilience of the Navajo people. His recordings have earned Native American Music Awards.

An active composer, Chee writes for solo instruments, chamber ensembles, orchestra, and voice. His work has been commissioned by the Moab Music Festival, the American Guild of Organists, and Yale University, among others. His catalog includes concertos for bassoon and flute, as well as works for piano, organ, and carillon. Drawing on Navajo philosophy, stories, and landscapes, his compositions invite audiences into a musical world that is at once contemporary and deeply personal.

Chee received his first GRAMMY nomination for Best Regional Roots Music Album for *Tongva Songs: We Are Here (Ekwa Chem)*, a collaborative recording featuring the Tongva Ensemble and Geneviève Gros-Louis. The project reflects his ongoing work with fellow Indigenous artists and communities.

Committed to expanding Indigenous representation in classical music, Chee serves as project manager for *Weaving Sounds*, a Frances Clark Center piano anthology featuring Indigenous composers. His own educational piano music is published by Alfred Music. He holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, which honored him with its 2024 Young Alumni Award.