The performers in the 16th Annual “Playing By Heart” benefit concert and their teacher, Wilton Pianist Kyong Hee Cho, invite you to join them on Sunday December 4th 2022 at 4pm at the Fairfield Grace Methodist Church to kick off the holiday season. All donations from the concert will benefit Person to Person, a non-profit agency serving 28,000 residents in lower Fairfield County. “Person to Person’s mission is to provide individuals and families with assistance for basic needs to overcome daily challenges and access to resources to improve their lives.”

The concert will include performances by Mrs. Cho’s advanced students and will feature selections from Haydn, Beethoven and Chopin. Mrs. Cho and Oboist Ralph Kirmser will perform “Three Romances Opus 22” by Clara Schumann.

Preparation for the performance requires dedication on the part of the students, who must carve out time for additional practice, lessons and rehearsals in days which are already filled with academic, athletic and other extra-curricular commitments. Brianna Hekle, a freshman at Wilton High School, who also plays violin and is Assistant Concertmaster for the Norwalk Youth Symphony’s Concert Orchestra, has studied with Mrs. Cho for nine years. She cites music, especially her piano studies, as teaching her the “importance of balancing discipline and enjoyment” in everything she does. Sharon Kesselman, one of the adult participants and a working mother of two teenage daughters, explains her willingness to practice “long, often frustrating hours.” “ I can only say that it’s worth it for the ‘moments.’ Music has the ability to bring joy and exhilaration, to elevate happiness and sometimes sadness. Either way, it enriches my life.”

For Mrs. Cho the necessary extra attention to these students comes with multiple rewards. “Once the students have memorized the pieces, we can get involved with more sophisticated aspects such as dynamics, different colors of the tones, texture and mood. I find joy in sharing their journey as they unlock the music in preparation for performance.”

Checks for contributions should be made out to Sharon Kesselman, the treasurer of

Playing By Heart, or Person to Person. The church is located at 1085 Fairfield Woods in Fairfield.