

## *Recollections on the Occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Yellow River*



In mid-August 1973, following the opening of diplomatic relations between the US and China under the Nixon administration, Maestro Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra were poised to embark on a historic concert tour of Mainland China -- the first ever by a major American cultural organization.

The *Yellow River Concerto*, a work by a Chinese Committee of composers, familiar to and beloved by all Chinese, was to be performed at the Saratoga Performing Arts Festival in upstate New York on August 25 and then the following week in China. For these performances, a well-known Chinese pianist was invited to come to the US for the Saratoga concert and then to accompany the Orchestra to China for the tour.

Days before the US concert disaster struck – the Chinese pianist was unable to come. At the last minute, Ormandy took a chance and invited an unknown young American pianist to play the concerto in his stead.

The result catapulted the young pianist to international attention literally overnight, and made cultural and political history.

Now, 40 years later, Daniel Epstein relates this dramatic and inspiring story through the lens of Oscar-nominated documentary filmmaker, Keven McAlester. The amazing series of circumstances leading to this life-changing and historic event is a testament both to the power of luck and the brashness of youth.



### YOUTUBE LINKS:

English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmrPVByz008>

Chinese subtitled version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Q5GXlk4k4>

### YOUKU LINK:

[http://v.youku.com/v\\_show/id\\_XMTI3MDMzNzUxMg==.html](http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XMTI3MDMzNzUxMg==.html)

[www.danielepsteinpiano.com](http://www.danielepsteinpiano.com)