

Lang Lang's 'Emperor' crowns a Beethoven-Mozart evening

Pics: Sooni Taraporevala



The audience could not get enough of superstar Chinese pianist Lang Lang (43) on Friday evening at the NCPA, even after his marathon 40-minute traversal of Beethoven's majestic Fifth Piano Concerto, aka Emperor, conducted by Zubin Mehta with the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra. Five curtain calls, prompted by a steadfast standing ovation, coaxed from him two ageless encores: Liszt's Consolation No. 2 and de Falla's Ritual Fire Dance. The evening — presented by the Mehli Mehta Music Foundation — opened with Mozart's Figaro Overture, followed by the Beethoven concerto. After the intermission came the Promethean composer's propulsive Seventh Symphony, which drew yet another standing ovation, capped by a rousing Happy Birthday encore for Mehta, who turns 90 in April, from the orchestra with which the maestro's association dates back to the 1950s