

10
Years

2023



The *10th* GOCAA New York | The *10th* GOCAA Boston
International Music Competition

Final Round

New York: July 6-July 8, 2023

Boston: August 20-22, 2023

The History of GOCAA INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

The GOCAA INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION is an international competition hosted by the GOCAA and A.C. ORANGE. Aiming to discover and promote young talent, the competition attracts many young talented pianists from around the world to perform and compete. With highly qualified judges and a rigorous selection process, the competition makes a direct positive impact on the future of piano study for young pianists.

Global Outstanding Chinese Artists Association (GOCAA) started the Global Outstanding Junior Performers Audition in China in 2013. GOCAA started the International Music Competition in 2018 and held the global finals in the U.S., and the Competitor Level is getting higher and higher.

The competition attracted contestants from China, the U.S., Russia, Switzerland, Canada, the U.K., Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia. GOCAA has organized hundreds of concerts for talented young musicians, as well as holding international music camps which located in the top music halls and the world's leading music academies, inviting top international musicians to join the team of mentors to train our future performers during winter and summer yearly, for we sincerely hope that winning awards in our competitions will only be the beginning of these rising young talents' soaring journey. In the future, GOCAA will launch tours for contracted young musicians in China, the U.S., and Canada. Growing on stage is our goal and philosophy for the competition.

From 2022 onwards, GOCAA added the Young Artist Signing Award to attract experienced young artists to participate in the competition and provide outstanding young artists with the opportunity to tour. The organizer of GOCAA, AC Orange, is a performance brokerage company with over 100 music halls across China. Ms. Fangfang Pan, the Chairman of GOCAA is responsible for selecting top young performers to launch a tour across China. Every year, she will invite 10 young performers to hold 100 concerts in 10 cities across China to help these young performers establish a career path and provide opportunities for these future outstanding performers. In recent years, the contracted young performers of GOCAA have successively won awards in major international competitions, demonstrating their outstanding talents. GOCAA has also collaborated with domestic and foreign symphony orchestras to promote concerts featuring our contracted performers playing concertos. GOCAA has partnered with KNS Records in Europe to distribute records worldwide, and have already released albums for five young performers. Outstanding teenage performer has also released an album with a Chinese record company. And the partnership with SinoVision brings us the opportunity to broadcast a series of music concert video collections showcasing our prize winners' outstanding achievements and performance talents to audiences in the United States. Our goal is to help outstanding young performers accumulate talent and embark on becoming professional performers!

About GOCAA

The Global Outstanding Chinese Artists Association is a Non-profit Arts Association recognized by the U.S. Federal Government (Approval Number : 47-45494244). As a comprehensive artistic organization, GOCAA members are active in many forms of arts including musical arts, visual arts, dance and other art forms.

GOCAA aims to promote cooperation among Chinese artists and nurture artistic achievements domestically and abroad. In order to create an international platform for artistic expression, GOCAA not only invites many outstanding artists from internationally renowned music schools and art schools, but has also invited many experts from the arts industry. GOCAA frequently hosts academic activities around the globe to encourage artistic communication among Chinese artists. More and more Chinese artists are being introduced to the world as more and more successful activities are held by GOCAA!



Alink-Argerich Foundation



Alink - Argerich Foundation

The Alink-Argerich Foundation is a unique organisation, offering the most complete details on music competitions ever compiled. By its nature and background, AAF has the widest range of information on piano competitions.

Competitions play an important role in the life of a musician whether one likes it or not. There are more and more music competitions all over the world, delivering a vast array of winners and non-winners every year. Many young talents take part with much expectation and high hopes. Some are rewarded, many are disappointed. It becomes more and more difficult to assess the situation and to evaluate the significance of a prize, the award-winner or the relevance of a particular competition. It is in this respect that AAF tries to make a difference, to help and assist, by offering clear and useful information.

The Alink-Argerich Foundation is there to give information, assistance and advice to musicians and competition organisers. The Foundation maintains a unique collection of competition related materials such as application brochures with the rules and conditions of music competitions and competition programme books.

Keywords to describe the intent of the Alink-Argerich Foundation are: reliability, quality, sincerity, and respect. The Foundation is an active organisation, operating and monitoring activity on a worldwide scale. With its activities and goals, the Foundation seeks to improve and support the circumstances in which true talent can emerge and quality can be acknowledged.



Co-founders Martha Argerich and Gustav Alink



Wishes From Previous Juries

The GOCAA Competitions are a wonderful opportunity for developing young musicians to learn the art of performance, gain experience, and grow into more mature artists. I have been impressed by the love and hard work the competitors bring to the music they perform, and it's been an honor to participate as a jury member. I hope these programs will continue to flourish and may they support many more young musicians in the future!

Ann Whelan
Dean, School
Director of Regional Studies & Piano Curriculum,
The School District
20 July, 2019

感谢您对本次比赛的辛勤付出，您的无私奉献和敬业精神，让我们有机会欣赏到这么多优秀的年轻音乐家。您的指导和鼓励，将是我们前进的动力。希望GOCAA能继续办下去，为更多的年轻音乐家提供展示才华的平台。

李俊

Thank you for the chance to be a judge at the first GOCAA International String Competition. It has been so inspiring to hear a wide range of young artists, to see and feel the great support of their families for music, and to witness the high standard of teaching and performance.

I will remember this experience for a long time and hope to see you all gain!

John

It is amazing to see and to hear so many talented students of all ages playing at such high level.

I sincerely wish GOCAA to continue their great work. And I look forward to future collaborations.

Sincerely,
Maxim Lubarsky

What a wonderful opportunity for young musicians to experience music and competition at such a high level. The GOCAA Competition is an excellent and important experience for young musicians and I am so grateful and honored to have participated this year as a judge. How fortunate I am to have heard such talented singers! These young students present at the highest level and I look forward to seeing where they go with music and how the GOCAA vocal competition continues to grow.

Thank you for inviting me to judge you. What a pleasure it has been!

Christy Choum
Associate Professor of Music
Boston College of Music

I am so glad to be a judge in the 7th GOCAA competition. Congratulations to all the talent and outstanding participants. Thanks to the committee's dedicated and wonderful job!

祝第七届GOCAA大赛圆满成功! 祝愿参赛者再接再厉!

肖凡 Jonathan
2019.8.11

August 11, 2019

It has been a pleasure to thank the piano teachers who have come to Boston for this year's GOCAA Festival and Competition! The level of playing was impressive, and the teachers were all terrific and well prepared. It was a very well organized festival and competition and had a positive and inspiring atmosphere. Thank you for inviting me to be a part of the event, and I look forward to returning!

Best wishes,
Amanda

August 11, 2019

Thank you GOCAA for this absolutely wonderful Piano Festival and Competition. Such fabulous pianists, and perfect organization! It was a great pleasure to host you all at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee - we look forward to the next one!

With admiration and appreciation -
Marilyn Lewin

I'm glad to be a part of GOCAA family. It's also very grateful to work with wonderful students. It's a great experience to teach "new generation" about the history and history. There's a deep knowledge behind of every music.

Life is an experience on itself. It's good to have important experience "there" so much to learn and so much to teach. Music is an wonderful experience to us and we are growing with it.

Today, we had to work really hard along the night. It's also challenge to show parents for their great effort. They had their kids and it was a great experience. I wish to every young student. This time is important to keep music in our lives.

I will really enjoy music to show they play for the great effort to make this competition more it's a great pleasure to be a part of this competition. We had an amazing team of help this year, so always.

Looking forward to the form of young competition.
Sue Rogers,
The Boston MA



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Wishes From Previous Juries

Meng Chieh Liu
To Global Outstanding Artists Association:
What a marvelous opportunities
you provide for young musicians!
It's wonderful to see them shine
in competitions and progress in
masterclasses!
best wishes!
Meng Chieh Liu

Wang Wang Jian
全球杰出华人少年演奏
家选拔赛已成为众多天才
少年展露头角的平台。希望每
年都有更多杰出的青年才俊
在这里开启艺术的生活。
Wang Wang Jian
July 9, 2019

为优秀青少年搭建与交流
乐团合作的桥梁，让他们走
向世界。
Guo Jizhuo
2013.10.4.

These young pianists are
extremely lucky to have the
GOCAA organization provide such
a wonderful platform for them to
showcase their talents. To GOCAA,
I am very thankful and honored to
be part of their 7th International
Piano Competition as a juror. To
the young pianists, I wish you
the best for a long and musical
journey ahead.

Allyson
7/20/19

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New York Final Schedule

Date	Time	Venue	Events
July 5 th	3:00 PM - 7:00 PM	The National Opera Center	Masterclass with Professor of The Juilliard School
July 6 th	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	The National Opera Center	Individual Lesson with Professors from Manhattan School of Music/The Juilliard School /The Curtis Institute of Music Recording and filming: \$200 for 5 minutes. Pure piano audition: \$100 for 5 minutes.
	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM		Professional Recording and Filming/Piano Audition Session (Limited to 20 people).
	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	OPERA America's National Opera Center, Marc A. Scorca Hall	Opening Concert: Performance by past contracted young musicians of GOCAA - Yu Wenting/Liu Jingci Piano Concert.
	3:00 PM - 7:00 PM		GOCAA Grand Finals
	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM		Concert by participants of the GOCAA 2022 Grand Finals (Free admission)
July 7 th full day	10:00 AM - 6:00 PM		GOCAA Grand Finals Free time at evening
July 8 th	5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Carnegie Hall (Weill Recital Hall)	Rehearsal for the 2022 Grand Finals participants performing
	8:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Carnegie Hall (Weill Recital Hall)	Concert at Carnegie Hall featuring the 2022 Grand Finals participants Award Ceremony for the 2023 Grand Finals participants *All trophies and certificates must be collected on-site. If you cannot attend, we can mail the certificate for the Grand Finals, but trophies will not be sent.

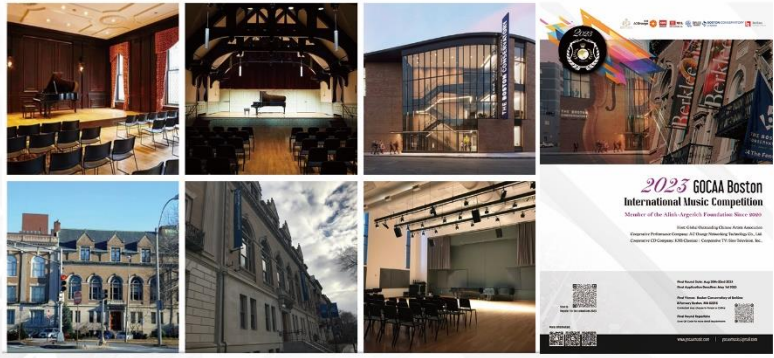




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Boston Final Schedule

Date	Time	Venue	Events
Aug 19 th	3:00 PM - 7:00 PM		Check in Hotel
Aug 20 th	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Boston Conservatory at Berklee	Master Class (Strings / Piano / Chamber music) All professors are from Boston Conservatory at Berklee <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lynn Chang, violin 2. Paul Laraia, viola 3. Michael Lewin, piano 4. Jonathan Bass, piano 5. Rhonda Rider cello Master class fee: \$300 /45 min practice room fee: \$40 / one Hour , \$300 / private room whole day
Aug 21 th	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM	Boston Conservatory at Berklee	Competition final round
	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Boston Conservatory at Berklee	GOCAA Opening Concert
Aug 22 th	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM	Boston Conservatory at Berklee	Competition final round
	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Boston Conservatory at Berklee	2023 finals Award Ceremony & Result Announcement





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Final Awards



Signed Professional Young Artist award (6 Winners)

Signed Young Performer Award (6 Winners)

Gold, Silver and Bronze awards will be selected for each category

Previous Laureates

2022 GOCAA Young Artist (8-18)

Pianist

Chengcheng Yao: Shanghai Conservatory of Music, China
Yifan Wu: Shanghai Conservatory of Music, China
Chan Ho Ting Alexander: Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, China
Lukas Kan, Canada
Victoria Sun, USA
Felix Sun, Australia
Carson Chen, Canada
James Wu, Canada

2022 GOCAA Professional Artist (18-32)

Yang Wang, Shanghai, China
Haotian Wei, Nanjing, China
Zhaolin Fei, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, China
Victoria Wang, Braintree, USA

2020-2021 2021 GOCAA Young Artist (8-18)

Pianist

Yidi Ding: The Juilliard School (NY), China
Xinyi Jiang: Middle School Affiliated to Shanghai Conservatory of Music, China
Yiduo Zhao: Middle School Affiliated to Shanghai Conservatory of Music, China
Justin Chen: Royal Conservatory of Music, Canada
Zihan Jin: Shanghai Conservatory of Music, China
Fengqi Qiu: Shanghai Conservatory of Music, China
Ming Ai Gai: Shanghai Conservatory of Music, China
Xuanxiang Wu: Shanghai Conservatory of Music, China
Paul Wang, Canada
Pinn Mahasarakood, Thailand/Singapore
Jie Liang, New Zealand
Xihang Tian, Canada

Violinist

Ashley Cai, Canada
Gabrielle Kejun Liu, Canada

2021 GOCAA Professional Artist (18-32)

Golden Prize: WenTing Yu
Silver Prize: JingCi Liu
Bronze Prize: Chang Li
Fourth Prize: XiZu Liang
Fifth Prize: RuoXi Jin
Sixth Prize: Anduo Chen/HaiYue Tian

2019 Youth Pianist Contract Award:

Gergory Vandikas, Canada
Nina ZhangYang, USA
Yi Zhong, USA
John Lee, the UK
Karrie Yip, the UK
Kitty Ho, the UK
Matthew Leung, the UK
Betty Wu, the UK

Junior Pianist Contract Award:

Angela Ye, Canada
Antiao Jiang, Canada
Richard Yeh, Canada
Artem Kopylov, Canada
Andrew Bao, Canada
Anson Zhao Heng Yu, Canada
George Yi Han Wang, Canada
Rachel Wang, Canada
HongSi Li, China
Ho Ngai Tin
JiaRui Zhang, China
Xingyuan Zhang, China
YiFan Lei, China

Vocal:

Junior Vocalist Contract Award: Aditi Panda, Canada

String:

Junior String Player Contract Award: Yen Jen Lin, Canada

2018

Conner Taylor, Canada
Jessica Wang, Canada
Ryan Huang, Canada
Jing Zhang, China
Huanqing Zhou, China
Joshua Noronha, Australia
Tina Algeri, Australia
Ranfei Wang, Canada
Dongqi Zhang, China
Shenghao Ling, China
Nicole Li, Australia
Yunyng Chen, China
Jingyi Ren, China

2017

Shuan Hern Lee, Australia
Hao Rao, China
Sidney Eric, Australia
Hannah Wang, Australia
Duoduo Xia, China
Enzao Luo, China
Tomer Nuriyev, America
Zhizhu Gu, China
Shixing Yu, China

2016

Cecilia Limargana, Australia
Yifan Wu, China
Xitong Tan, Hong Kong, China
Wei Chen, China
Sixian Yu, China
Jingyi Zou, China
Zengyue Fan, China
Haoting Deng, Hong Kong, China

2015

Wong Yat Fei, Hong Kong, China
Yang Xiao, China
Xiaoyu Cheng, China
Haoyang Jiang, China
Yuxiao Feng, China
Senbao Lu, China
Yuheng Lin, China
Yifan Chen, China

2014

Xinyue Gao, China
Qiyuan Hu, China
Zhehao Wang, China

2013

Zekai Liu, China
Le Peng, China
Tianju Liao, China
Sheng'an Wang, China
Xingyao Feng, China
Ke Tang, China

GOCAA Concerto Festival



2023 December (Los Angeles)

Collaborative orchestra :

Symphony Irvine

Conductor:

Dean Anderson

Location :

La Sierra University Campus
Hole Memorial Auditorium
4500 Riverwalk Parkway, Riverside , CA 92505

Preliminary Round : Any Movement of any concerto

Final Round : one movement of Mozart Concerto

Final Application Fee: \$280

Plan A : \$ 2000 (Play with Symphony Orchestra)

Plan B : Online Final - send video to apply

Plan C : In-person Final - Play with piano accompaniment

* Plan A application fee include:

- **Conductor Public Master Class** (zoom meeting online master class)

- **Topic :** How to play Mozart Concerto with orchestra

- **Rehearse** two times with the orchestra (December 10)

- **Public performance :** December , 2023

About track requirements:

-Piano -Mozart concerto (chose One movement)

Piano Concerto No. 9 in E-flat Major, K. 271

Piano Concerto No. 15 in B-flat Major, K. 450

Piano Concerto No. 19 in F Major, K. 459

Piano Concerto No. 20 in D Minor, K. 466

Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major, K. 467

Piano Concerto No. 22 in E-flat Major, K. 482

Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major, K. 488

Piano Concerto No. 24 in C Minor, K. 491

Piano Concerto No. 25 in C Major, K. 503

Piano Concerto No. 27 in B-flat Major, K. 595

Concerto no. 12 in A major K414

-Strings may choose other composer pieces



Executive Committee



Fangfang Pan
Chairman



Yuanfei Jiang
Executive Director



Vivi Shiwei Wu
Director of International Affairs



Wenting Yu
Artist-in-Residence



Jingci Liu
Artist-in-Residence



Xianfeng Zhang
Member of Executive Committee
(China Region)



Charles Li
Member of Executive Committee
(Canada Region)



Siwei Zhang
Live Host
(New York Final)

Chairman of GOCAA & Jury Member

FangFang Pan

Chairman of GOCAA

Chairman of the Global Outstanding Chinese Artists Association, an extraordinary piano educator who immigrated to the United States with an EB1-A (Alien of Extraordinary Ability) Visa, Associate member of Grammy, the guest lecturer of the Xinghai Concert Hall ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) graded-exam lecture series. The founder and education director of Guangzhou Yayun-Poly Music & Art Studio.

Judges of the ZhongSin International Music Competition (Singapore), the Chopin International Piano Competition for Young Pianists (preliminary, quarter-final), and many other major piano competitions. Moreover, Ms. Fangfang Pan successfully introduced major music events from Hong Kong and Macau into China mainland, which has made great contributions to the music education of China mainland as well as the cultural exchange between special administrative regions and the mainland.

After her immigration to America, Ms. Fangfang Pan participated as the judge in multiple major art competitions, she was also the Director of Juries of the composition contest of the San Francisco International New-concept Filmfest, and the Artistic Director of America-Asia Art Group. At the same time, she established the Global Outstanding Chinese Artists Association which is based in San Francisco, and the GOCAA International Piano Competition (GIPC), as well as the GOCAA International Vocal Competition (GIVC) and the GOCAA International Strings Competition (GISC). As the founder and chairman of GOCAA and the International music Competitions, Ms. Fangfang Pan has led numerous rising young talents from all over the world showing their talents in music on many different stages world-widely. Hundreds of these young talented pianists' recitals and concerto concerts were held, giving each of them great opportunities to become a better and more mature artist.

Due to the success of the GOCAA International Piano Competition (America Division), July 29th is announced as GOCAA Day by the Mayor of San Mateo, America. And Ms. Fangfang Pan has been awarded Outstanding Contribution Awards several times from different cities.

Ms. Fangfang Pan has been performing with a couple of excellent musicians in duo forms, such as Ms. Anna Maria Mendieta, the principal harpist with the Sacramento Philharmonic; Mr. Matthew Linaman, cello professor from the Pre-college of San Francisco Conservatory of Music, the Time Gramophone Concert Series they performed through cities from America, Canada to China has been awarded Outstanding Artists Awards and reported by major media like World Daily, Singtao Daily, News for Chines e, Sino Television, ChineseRadio.com, ChineseRadio.cn, G&E AM1510 Radio, etc.



Jury Members

Carrie Cheron

Associate Professor of Voice at Berklee College of Music

With a career of repertoire that spans the musical sphere, Grammy-nominated mezzo-soprano and multi-genre contemporary vocalist Carrie Cheron has been hailed as having the “voice of an angel” with “unfeigned expression,” and has graced many stages across New England and beyond. Highly sought-after as both a classical performer and crossover artist, Carrie performs regularly as a soloist and ensemble member of Skylark Vocal Ensemble, Emmanuel Music, Boston Baroque, Lorelei Ensemble, and folk/baroque collective Floyd’s Row, among others.

The 2021-2022 season opened with the world-premiere performance of Francine Trester’s *A Walk in her Shoes* with Boston Landmarks Orchestra at Boston’s Hatch Shell. The season continues with performances and recording projects with Skylark Vocal Ensemble and Lorelei Ensemble; Bach cantata BWV 213 in the Emmanuel Music Chamber Festival, Bach’s St. John Passion, and countless performances of Bach cantatas with Emmanuel Music; a solo appearance with Boston Baroque in Vivaldi’s *Gloria*, the world premiere of Paul Rudof’s *Our Transcendental Passion* with Boston Cecilia; and more.

Classical solo highlights of previous seasons include Vivaldi’s *Stabat Mater*, Bach’s *B Minor Mass*, Christmas Oratorio, Wolf’s *Spanisches Liederbuch*, Britten’s *A Charm of Lullabies*, and Bach cantatas with Emmanuel Music; an international solo debut with Skylark Ensemble at the Holy Week Festival at St. John’s, Smith Square in London, accompanied with a live on-air performance on BBC Radio 3’s program, “In Tune”; Haydn’s *Lord Nelson Mass*, Mozart’s *Requiem* and *Vesperae solennes de Dominica*, Handel’s *Israel in Egypt* and *Messiah*, Vivaldi’s *Dixit Dominus*, and Rachmaninoff’s *All-Night Vigil*.

On the operatic stage, Carrie recently performed the roles of *Amore* and *Valletto* with Boston Baroque in Monteverdi’s *L’incoronazione di Poppea*; *Doctor/Loki* in *Guerilla Opera*’s world premiere presentation of Per Boland’s opera *Pedr Solis*; and *Vicki* in Francine Trester’s chamber opera *Florence Comes Home*, based on the life of composer Florence Price.

A champion of contemporary classical composition, Ms. Cheron recently joined New Gallery Concert Series for the world premiere of *weavery*, by composer Marti Epstein, written specifically for Ms. Cheron’s voice. She also recorded the song cycle *Alice*, by composer Thomas Oboe Lee; recently performed Boston composer Christopher Montgomery’s song cycle *Ascent*; and is preparing Francine Trester’s song cycle *Universal Orlando* for an upcoming performance.

A featured soloist on all of Skylark Ensemble’s Grammy-nominated recordings, Carrie performed a solo, a cappella track of “Wayfaring Stranger” on Skylark’s most recent Grammy-nominated album, *It’s a Long Way*. This November, Skylark released its most recent album, *A Christmas Carol*, which includes a devastating arrangement of “Coventry Carol,” by Benedict Sheehan, featuring Carrie as soloist. She can also be heard as a soloist on Lorelei Ensemble’s most recent recording, *Love Fail*, and is featured on their aforementioned upcoming recording of Jessica Meyer’s “I Long and Seek After.”

Ms. Cheron is particularly proud to perform with Shelter Music Boston, which presents classical chamber music concerts of the highest artistic standards, in homeless shelters and other sheltering environments in and around the Boston area. She is also a founding and core member of Eudaimonia, a conductorless period orchestra that uses musical performance to support the social and humanitarian work of partner organizations. In 2017, Eudaimonia collaborated with the students of Longy School of Music to present a fully-staged production of Vivaldi’s *Juditha triumphans*, in which Ms. Cheron performed the title role.

As a nationally recognized performing singer/songwriter, Ms. Cheron’s original compositions and singing have been celebrated by the John Lennon Songwriting Contest, Great Waters Folk Festival, Rocky Mountain Folks Fest, and the Connecticut Folk Festival Songwriting Contest. She has shared the stage with such acclaimed artists as Sweet Honey In The Rock, Anais Mitchell, The Barra MacNeils, Northern Lights, David Jacobs-Strain, and Edie Carey.

A dedicated educator, Carrie is an Associate Professor of Voice at Berklee College of Music, where she teaches healthy vocal technique of all genres. When she is not performing or teaching, Carrie spends countless hours wading through the woods, foraging for mushrooms, petting her beloved cat Zoe, and organizing seeds for the upcoming planting season.



Jury Members

Prof. Ernest Barretta

Piano Faculty, The Juilliard School Pre-College Division, New York

Recognized, at a young age, as a pianist “in command of his instrument and the music at every intricate turn ... his technical expertise, stage presence and sensitivity to the music are truly inspiring in so youthful a pianist” (McKeesport Daily News), American pianist Ernest Barretta continues to enjoy success as both soloist and chamber musician. He has performed extensively throughout the United States and abroad, as soloist with the St. Petersburg Symphony in St. Petersburg, Russia, the National Gallery Orchestra of Washington, D.C. and the Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra. Sought after for both his performances of, and thoughts about, music, he has appeared in interviews and live performances at XM Radio studios, on WBJC in Baltimore and WFLN in Philadelphia. He has recorded contemporary, chamber and solo repertoire on multiple labels, and his solo recording of works by Bach, Beethoven, and Musorgsky on the MRC label has earned critical acclaim. As a collaborative artist, Barretta has performed and recorded with many internationally recognized musicians, and is a member of the Allegheny Ensemble and the Musa Amici trio. He twice appeared as soloist at the Seoul Summer Music Festival and Academy in South Korea, where he also served as a member of the piano faculty; he has also performed and given masterclasses at numerous music festivals in China and Taiwan. In addition, he has served as a juror at international piano competitions in New York, China, and Taiwan.

Dr. Barretta additionally devotes a great deal of his time to teaching; the rewarding task of working with emerging talent is an important part of his life as a musician. He is currently on the piano faculty of the Juilliard School of Music, pre-college division, having served previously on the piano faculties of The Peabody Conservatory and Towson University. He also enjoys working as conductor and composer, and is Music Director of the several ensembles that make up the music program at St. Joseph, Fullerton, in Baltimore, MD.

Early studies of both piano and organ in the Pittsburgh, PA area led to top prizes in several local competitions, including those of the Pittsburgh Concert Society and the Pittsburgh Musician’s Club. He earned his BM in Piano Performance from the Oberlin Conservatory, studying with Sanford Margolis, MM from the University of the Arts and DMA from the Peabody Conservatory – studying with Yoheved Kaplinsky at both schools. He received several honors and distinctions along the way, such as the Rudolph Serkin Prize (Oberlin), the Strine Award (U of Arts) and the Zierler Award (Peabody). Currently, Dr. Barretta resides in the Baltimore area with his wife, Cynthia, and their daughter.



Jury Members

Ignat Solzhenitsyn

The Curtis Institute of Music

Recognized as one of today's most gifted artists, and enjoying an active career as both conductor and pianist, Ignat Solzhenitsyn's lyrical and poignant interpretations have won him critical acclaim throughout the world.

In 2019–20 Mr. Solzhenitsyn returns to the Bolshoi Theatre to lead *La Clemenza di Tito* and *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, both of which he conducted at their production premieres. He also returns to the National Philharmonic of Russia, leads the London Chamber Orchestra in Hong Kong, appears at Music@Menlo, and gives solo recitals in Rome, Madrid, and St. Petersburg.

Principal Guest Conductor of the Moscow Symphony Orchestra and Conductor Laureate of the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Ignat Solzhenitsyn is much in demand as a guest conductor, having recently led the symphonies of Baltimore, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Dallas, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Nashville, Phoenix, Seattle, and Toronto, the Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie, the Czech National Symphony, as well as many of the major orchestras in Russia including the Mariinsky Orchestra, the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, the Moscow Philharmonic, and the Moscow Symphony. He has partnered with such world-renowned soloists as Richard Goode, Gary Graffman, Steven Isserlis, Gidon Kremer, Sylvia McNair, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Garrick Ohlsson, Mstislav Rostropovich, and Mitsuko Uchida.

In recent seasons, his extensive touring schedule in the United States and Europe has included concerto performances with numerous major orchestras, including those of Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Saint Louis, Los Angeles, Seattle, Baltimore, Washington, Montreal, Toronto, London, Paris, Israel, and Sydney, and collaborations with such distinguished conductors as Herbert Blomstedt, James Conlon, James DePreist, Charles Dutoit, Lawrence Foster, Valery Gergiev, Krzysztof Penderecki, André Previn, Mstislav Rostropovich, Gerard Schwarz, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Maxim Shostakovich, Yuri Temirkanov and David Zinman. In addition to his recital appearances in the United States at New York's 92nd Street Y, Philadelphia's Kimmel Center, St. Paul's Orway Theatre, Ann Arbor's Hill Auditorium, Salt Lake City's Abravanel Hall, San Francisco's Herbst Theatre, and many others from coast to coast, Mr. Solzhenitsyn has also given numerous recitals in Europe and the Far East in such major musical centers as London, Milan, Zurich, Moscow, Tokyo, and Sydney.

An avid chamber musician, Mr. Solzhenitsyn has collaborated with the Emerson, Borodin, Brentano, and St. Petersburg String Quartets, and in four-hand recital with Mitsuko Uchida. He has frequently appeared at international festivals, including Salzburg, Evian, Ludwigsburg, Caramoor, Ojai, Marlboro, Nizhny Novgorod and Moscow's famed December Evenings.

A winner of the Avery Fisher Career Grant, Ignat Solzhenitsyn serves on the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music. He has been featured on many radio and television specials, including CBS Sunday Morning and ABC's Nightline. Born in Moscow, Mr. Solzhenitsyn resides in New York City.



Jury Members

Lisa Yui, DMA

Yamaha Artist
Manhattan School of Music
The Juilliard School, Juilliard Extension

Described as “a musical phenomenon” (Pianiste Magazine), Yamaha Artist Lisa Yui enjoys a multifaceted musical career as pianist, lecturer, teacher, author, and musical director. Since making her concerto debut at the age of seven, Lisa Yui has performed throughout North America, Europe, and Asia as a recitalist and soloist with orchestra. She is the top prizewinner of the Scignaglia International Piano Competition in Italy, the Super Classics International Auditions in Tokyo, and has twice been the recipient of a Canada Council Scholarship.

Lisa Yui has performed as soloist with prominent orchestras such as the Tokyo Symphony, Polish National Radio, Toronto Symphony, Edmonton Symphony, the Montreal Metropolitan Orchestra, and the Krakow State Philharmonic. Her performances have been broadcast on WQXR (New York), CBC (Canadian Broadcast Corporation), CJRT-FM (Ontario, Canada), and STV (Sapporo, Japan). She has performed in Sunory Hall in Tokyo, Roy Thompson Hall in Toronto, Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, and the Liszt Ferenc Memorial Museum in Budapest, among other major concert venues around the world.

In 2005 Ms. Yui was chosen from over 1000 applicants as one of the few Canadian artists to participate in the World Exposition in Aichi, Japan, where she performed and hosted in English, Japanese, and French. She performed a program of works by Liszt, Ravel, and Canadian composers François Morel and Colin McPhee. She has been invited twice to be the featured guest artist on the 101 Days Around the World Tour of the Japanese cruise ship Nipponmaru.

As a lecturer and performer, Ms. Yui originated The Lives of the Piano, Manhattan School of Music’s first piano lecture/concert series, now in its 21st season. She has been invited as a lecturer to the Juilliard School, Kunitachi Music University, Princeton University, Washington and Lee University, and the University of Toronto, among other universities, colleges and venues. In 2005, Ms. Yui produced a nine-part lecture/concert series in New York, “Beethoven at Yamaha,” in which 30 eminent pianists, including Ms. Yui, performed. The following year, she produced “Liszt at Yamaha,” appearing along with 30 guest scholars and artists, among them Alan Walker, Leslie Howard, Thomas Mastroianni, and Jerome Lowenthal. She has performed, lectured and given masterclasses in various music conferences, including the MTNA National Conference and NAMM Show in California.

Lisa Yui has worked extensively with the Yamaha Disklavier, having given numerous performances, including a solo recital of music for four hands, two pianos, and piano and orchestra, as well as long-distance “remote lessons.” A short film on her work with the Disklavier, sponsored by Cisco, was filmed by Jae Choe.

Lisa Yui’s CD of the music of Carl Maria von Weber and Jan Ladislav Dussek was awarded the highest rating, the “Pianiste Maestro,” by the French music magazine, Pianiste. Her DVD/Blu-ray recording of four Beethoven Sonatas with commentary was released on the Aurora Classics label, garnering rave reviews.

Lisa Yui’s insightful writing on music has appeared in numerous publications such as Clavier Companion, EPITA Journal, and Listen, on a variety of topics including the life and influence of the virtuosic 19th-century pianist Marie Pleyel, on whom Dr. Yui wrote her doctoral thesis.

Lisa Yui’s principal teachers and mentors include Giovanni Valentini, Byron Janis, Marc Silverman, Oxana Yablonskaya, Edna Golandsky, David Dabal, Jean-Paul Sevilla and Leonid Ilambo. She received her bachelor’s degree at the Juilliard School, where she received the Humanities Award, and her master’s and doctor of musical arts degrees at Manhattan School of Music, which awarded her both the Roy M. Rubenstein Award, given to a graduate with exceptional promise in piano, and the Helen Cohn Award as outstanding doctoral graduate. She has also participated in master classes with Emanuel Ax, Alicia de Larrocha, Conrad Hansen, Leon Fleisher, Eugene Istinin, and Anton Kuerti.

In addition to producing The Lives of the Piano series at Manhattan School of Music, Lisa Yui teaches graduate piano literature, keyboard skills, Historical Recordings of Great Pianists, and The 32 Beethoven Sonatas at Manhattan School of Music. She is the recipient of the School’s 2018 President’s Medal for Distinguished Service. Lisa Yui is currently also on the faculty of the Juilliard Extension, where she teaches piano and keyboard literature. Previous appointments include piano faculty at John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University, department chair of the Music Advancement Program at the Juilliard School, and director of Ensemble 212’s Young Artist Competition Series. Lisa Yui has served as a member of numerous competition juries including the National Finals of the Canadian Music Competition and the Canadian Chopin Competition.



Jury Members

Lynn Chang

Professor of Violin at Boston Conservatory at Berklee

Lynn Chang joined the Conservatory in 1982 and is a professor of violin.

A top-prize winner in the international Paganini Competition, Chang enjoys an active international career as a soloist, chamber musician, and educator. For 25 years, he performed as a member of the Boston Chamber Music Society, and he has appeared at the Marlboro and Tanglewood music festivals and as a soloist with orchestras worldwide. He has performed with members of the Juilliard, Tokyo, Cleveland, Vermeer, and Orion string quartets. His discography includes the works of William Grant Still on New World Records, Made in America with Yo-Yo Ma on Sony, and the Grammy Award-winning *The Girl with Orange Lips* with Dawn Upshaw on Nonesuch Records. In 2010 Chang performed at the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony in Oslo, Norway, to honor Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, and in 2011 he performed for President Obama at the nationally telecast Kennedy Center Honors to celebrate cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

Chang received a degree in music from Harvard University and studied the violin with Ivan Galamian at the Juilliard School. Chang's former students now serve as members of the Boston and Chicago symphony orchestras, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. His former student Joseph Lin was recently named first violin of the Juilliard String Quartet.

Chang served as vice chair of the board of overseers for Harvard University from 2008 to 2014, where he also served as chair of the committee on arts and humanities. In 2015 he served on the visitation committees for the Harvard University Department of Music and Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. For the past several summers, he has worked with the Asian Youth Orchestra in Hong Kong and has taught and performed at the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival in Vermont, the Heifetz Institute, and the Vivace Vilnius Festival in Lithuania.



Jury Members

Matthew Odell, DMA

American Pianist

Piano Faculty, The Juilliard School, Pre-College & Evening Division

Piano Faculty, Académie internationale d'été in Nice, France

The American pianist Matthew Odell began his studies at the age of 10 and has since won acclaim for performances of a wide range of repertoire as a solo recitalist, soloist with orchestra, and chamber musician. He has been hailed as "excellent" by the New York Times and "brilliant ... playing with total commitment and real abandon" by Gramophone. Highlights of past concert seasons include such diverse projects as Messiaen's *Des canyons aux étoiles...* with David Robertson and the Juilliard Orchestra for the reopening of Alice Tully Hall, a performance in the New York Philharmonic's Stravinsky Festival, and a tour of concerts, lectures, and masterclasses in England, France, and Spain. Recent concerts have featured the complete solo piano works of Olivier Messiaen, Pierre Boulez, Elliott Carter, John Adams, and Michel Merlet.

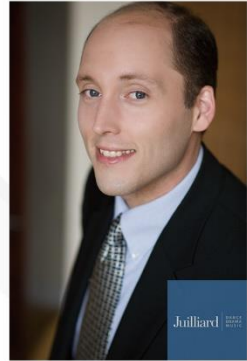
In addition to performances in Weill Recital Hall and Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Hall, and the 92nd Street Y in New York, Mr. Odell has appeared at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London, and at venues in Boston, Chicago, Miami, Paris, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Taipei, and Helsinki. He has also performed at the Aspen Music Festival, the European American Musical Alliance in Paris, New York's Focus! Festival, the La Gesse Festival in Toulouse, France, *Nuits musicales* and *Concerts du cloître* in Nice, France, and the Rohm International Music Festival in Kyoto, Japan.

A passionate advocate of the music of our time, Mr. Odell frequently premieres works written for him. He has performed contemporary repertoire with the New Juilliard Ensemble, AXIOM, Peabody Camerata, and the American Art Song Festival, a group he founded in 2004. He has worked with many prominent composers, including Pierre Boulez, John Corigliano, Ned Rorem, Mark Adamo, Michel Merlet, and Robert Aldridge. His debut album *Connections: The Piano Music of Olivier Messiaen and his Students* was recently released on Albany Records.

Mr. Odell's special love of the art song repertoire has resulted in many recitals with singers from around the world, including the British bass-baritone John Shirley-Quirk and members of the Metropolitan Opera. For five years he served on the coaching faculty of the Académie internationale d'été in Nice, France, and he has performed in the Marilyn Horne Foundations' festival *The Song Continues* at Carnegie Hall. At Lincoln Center he has presented a tribute to baritone Pierre Bernac as well as the complete songs of Barber and Duparc. He is a founding member of The Hampton Trio and Acacia and has collaborated with a wide array of musicians, including clarinetist Charles Neidich and pianist Peter Hill.

Mr. Odell currently teaches at The Juilliard School and frequently presents master classes, workshops, and lectures at professional conferences and universities throughout the U.S and Europe. In May 2010 he graduated with a doctoral degree from The Juilliard School, where he studied with Margo Garrett, Jonathan Feldman, and Brian Zeger. He studied further with Marian Hahn at the Peabody Conservatory of Music, graduating Pi Kappa Lambda with both a master of music degree and a graduate performance diploma in piano performance and with Laurence Morton at Bob Jones University. He also worked with Karl-Heinz Kämmerling at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria and with Ann Schein at the Aspen Music School.

For more information, visit www.matthewodell.com.



Jury Members

Prof. Michael Lewin

Professor of Piano at Boston Conservatory at Berklee

Michael Lewin is one of America's most eminent and esteemed concert pianists. A professor of piano, he joined the Conservatory in 1990, and is the founder and artistic director of the acclaimed Boston Conservatory Piano Masters Series.

A Steinway Artist, Lewin's active international career has taken him to more than 30 countries for recitals, major music festivals, PBS television broadcasts, and orchestral performances of a repertoire of 40 concertos with numerous symphony orchestras. His orchestral engagements include the Moscow Chamber Orchestra, Netherlands Philharmonic, Bucharest Philharmonic, China National Orchestra, Cairo Symphony, State Symphony of Athens, 13 concerts with the Boston Pops, and the symphonies of Phoenix, Indianapolis, Puerto Rico, Miami, Colorado, and North Carolina.

Lewin's awards include a Grammy (2014), third prize in the Franz Liszt International Competition (1986), first prize in the Kapell International Competition (1983), and the American Pianists Association Fellowship Award (1982). His Billboard classical chart-topping and award-winning discography includes 14 solo recordings for the Naxos, Centaur, and Sono Luminus labels, featuring the music of Scarlatti, Griffes, Gottschalk, Bolcom, Debussy, Liszt, and others. He is a devoted chamber musician, and many contemporary composers have written new works for him.

Critics have lauded his "immense technique and ability" (New York Times) and "dazzling music-making" (Gramophone, England), calling him "a poet and a virtuoso" (De Telegraaf, Amsterdam) with "profound understanding and a deeply heartfelt voice" (Pravda, Moscow) and applauding his "passion and precision" (Washington Post).

Lewin earned a B.M. and M.M. from the Juilliard School, with additional studies with Leon Fleisher and in France with Yvonne Lefebvre. A highly sought-after teacher, he has taught many prize-winning and successful pianists, gives master classes worldwide, and is a frequent international competition judge.

Professional Awards and Recognitions

- Grammy Award (2014)
- Aaron Copland Recording Award (2010)
- Franz Liszt International Competition (1986)
- American Pianists Association Fellowship Award (1983)
- William Kapell International Piano Competition (1982)



Jury Members

Mika Sasaki, DMA

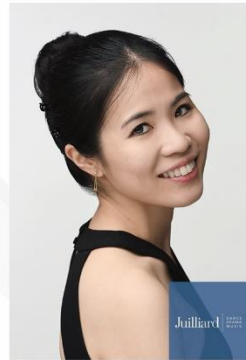
**Japanese-American Pianist, Chamber Musician, and Educator
The Juilliard School of Music, Evening Division, and College Division
Piano and Chamber Music Faculty, Rushmore Music Festival
& Charles Ives Concert Series Chamber Music Intensive**

Pianist Mika Sasaki is an imaginative and versatile soloist, chamber musician, and educator whose performances and teaching have taken her to the U.K., Italy, Japan, Switzerland, and throughout the U.S. Her debut album, *Obsidian: Mika Sasaki plays Clara Schumann*, released on Yarlung Records in 2016, was highly acclaimed by the Online Merker as “illuminat[ing] the artistic inspiration and creative exchange between three Romantic souls,” Clara Schumann, Robert Schumann, and Johannes Brahms. Her playing has been broadcasted on WQXR, WFMT, KQAC, and Radio Sweden, and she has performed concertos with the Sinfonia of Cambridge (U.K.), New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, 92Y Orchestra, and more recently with the InterSchool Symphony Orchestra of New York.

Dr. Sasaki has won awards at the Peabody Conservatory, Soleil Music Competition in Tokyo, All Japan Classical Music Competition, and the NJSO Young Artists Audition. Her festival appearances include Music@Menlo, Tanglewood, Accademia Musicale Chigiana, PianoSonoma, Taos, Yellow Barn, Aspen, Focus!, Iceicle Creek, Rushmore, SoundWaves (Omaha), Mannes Beethoven Institute, Caramoor, Shandeelee, Weekend of Chamber Music, and Summer Performing Arts with Juilliard in Geneva, Switzerland. She is the pianist of Ensemble Mélange and frequently concertizes with the Chameleon Arts Ensemble in Boston, Manhattan Chamber Players, Carnegie Hall’s Ensemble Connect, and with her duo partners. She is an artist faculty member at Music@Menlo’s Young Performers Program and the Charles Ives Music Festival at the Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra during the summer.

She is an alumna of the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University (B.M., M.M.), Ensemble Connect—a two-year fellowship program of Carnegie Hall, Juilliard, and Weill Institute in partnership with the NYC Department of Education—and The Juilliard School (D.M.A.), where she was awarded the Juilliard Career Advancement Fellowship as a graduate who demonstrated outstanding artistry and achievement in leadership, entrepreneurship, and breadth of engagement.

Based in New York City, Dr. Sasaki is a faculty member at Juilliard, where she teaches piano, chamber music, and keyboard skills courses in the Evening Division, and Piano Topics and keyboard skills for pianists in the College Division. mikasasaki.com



Jury Members

Paul Laraia

Associate Professor of Violin at Boston Conservatory at Berklee

Paul Laraia joined the Conservatory in 2023 as an associate professor of viola.

Acclaimed by *The Strad* for his "eloquent" and "vibrant" playing, Laraia is an active soloist, chamber musician, and new music proponent. In competition, he was awarded First Prize in the 13th Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition, First Prize in the 14th National Sphinx Competition, and Gold Medal with High Distinction at the fifth Manhattan International Music Competition.

As an internationally acclaimed soloist, Laraia has performed with major orchestras such as the Pittsburgh Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Filharmonica de Bogotá, New Jersey Symphony, Nashville Symphony, New Haven Symphony, San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and has been a featured soloist at London's Wigmore Hall, the Shalin Liu Performance Center, the 40th International Viola Congress, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and in various venues in New York City, Philadelphia, and Boston.

Since 2013, Laraia has been a member of the Grammy Award-winning Catalyst Quartet, which is currently in residence at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City for the 2022-2024 seasons and at Chamber Music Northwest in Portland, Oregon.

An avid new music proponent, Laraia has worked directly with many of the leading voices in composition such as Jessie Montgomery, David Ludwig Serkin, Gabriella Lena Frank, Richard Danielpour, Jimmy Lopez, and Todd Machover. He also maintains a close artistic partnership with Taiwanese composer Shiu-an Chang, with whom he is crafting a new work as a requiem for peace in our troubled times.

Laraia completed his studies at New England Conservatory under Kim Kashkashian and the Glenn Gould School in Toronto under Steven Dann.

Professional Awards and Recognitions:

- First Prize Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition (2019)
- First Prize Sphinx Competition (2011)
- Grammy Award for Best Jazz Vocal Album, *Dreams and Daggers* (2016)



Jury Members

Prof. Rhonda Rider

Professor of Cello at Boston Conservatory at Berklee

For over two decades, cellist Rhonda Rider was a member of the Naumburg Award-winning Lydian Quartet and Triple Helix Piano Trio. Rider's many chamber music and solo recordings have been nominated for Grammy Awards and cited as Critic's Choice in both the New York Times and Boston Globe. With the Lydians she was awarded numerous prizes at Banfi, Evian and Portsmouth Competitions. As a soloist, she won the Concert Artists Guild Award as well as an Aaron Copland Recording Grant. She has performed at the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Corcoran Gallery, Wigmore Hall, Symphony Space, Library of Congress, Los Angeles County Museum of Art and has been a guest artist with the Boston Chamber Music Society, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Castle of Our Skins, New Gallery Series, Chatter ABO, Radius, Chameleon Arts and Shelter Music Boston. Dedicated to the performance of new music, Rider has premiered and recorded works by such renowned composers as John Harbison, Lee Hyla, Yu-Hui Chang, Raven Chacon, Laura Kaminsky and Elliott Carter.

Rider has given masterclasses at schools including Yale School of Music, Oberlin Conservatory, New England Conservatory, Tainan University for the Arts and Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts. She has served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, American String Teachers' Association, Music Teacher's National Association and Chamber Music America. She has also adjudicated at the Concert Artists Guild, Stulberg and Fischhoff Competitions.

Always interested in bringing classical music to unusual and essential places, Rider was named Artist-in-Residence at Grand Canyon and Petrified Forest National Parks. Eighteen works for solo cello were commissioned for these residencies. The works have been performed, by numerous cellists, across the U.S. in a wide variety of venues from Boston and Dallas to Wupatki National Monument and rural New York State.

During the summer months, she performs and teaches at festivals including Music from Salem, Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, Tanglewood, Harvard Chamber Music Festival and is the cello coach for the Asian Youth Orchestra (Hong Kong). Each June, she holds a Cello Seminar dedicated to contemporary music in Washington County, New York. Continuing the teaching legacy of her mentors Aldo Parisot, Richard Kapuscinski and Robert Koff, Rider is Professor of Cello at Boston Conservatory at Berklee where she was twice awarded Outstanding Teacher of the Year/Best of Berklee. Her cello octet, BoCoCelli, regularly premieres works and most recently recorded a 360-degree video at Power Station/BerkleeNY.

Rider holds degrees from Oberlin Conservatory and Yale School of Music.



Jury Members

Utar Artun

Associate Professor at Berklee College of Music

Utar Artun was born in Ankara, Turkey. In 2006, he arranged musical pieces for the theater play "The 7 Women". Artun arranged numerous movie soundtracks and oldies/jazz music for symphonic orchestras, and the Bursa Regional Symphony Orchestra, Antalya State Symphony, Cukurova State Symphony, Presidential Symphony Orchestra and Izmir State Symphony Orchestra performed his arrangements and compositions in live concerts. In Turkey, Artun performed at the 19th Istanbul Jazz Festival, 12th Side Culture Art Festival, the 7th Eskisehir Jazz Festival, 12th International Ankara Jazz Festival, 6th International Mersin Music Festival, and 25th International Ankara Music Festival. In 2008, Artun graduated from Percussion Department of Hacettepe Conservatory with 2nd Rank (runner-up) Degree of School Placement Award (Turkey).

After his graduation, he participated to European Scholarship Tours of Berklee College of Music and graduated in 2.5 years with summa cum laude degree. He was awarded for highly "Honorable Mention" from Berklee Contemporary Symphony Orchestra Composition Competition, Barnes&Noble award, 5 Dean's List awards, Outstanding Pianist award, Arif Mardin Scholarship Award and Brian Oliver Memorial Award. He was among the finalist of ASCAP's Morton Gould Young Composers Competition (2010) and Young Jazz Composers Competition (2011). In January 2010 and 2012, one of his compositions was selected to Jazz Reevaluation Records CDs. He was a JRR artist of Berklee and Artun was a part of 'Birds of Feather', 'Octave' and 'Ripple Effect' albums. In 2011, he performed with Kevin Eubanks in the studio recording session of WGBH Studios - Boston, MA. In the US, He's been in workshops, clinics, concert performances and album recordings with world renowned artists such as Bobby McFerrin, Dave Weckl, Jojo Mayer, Arto Tunçboyacıyan, Dave Liebman, Antonio Sanchez, Mark Guiliana, Rudresh Mahanthappa, Simon Shaheen, Dave Holland, Larry Finn, Eddie Gomez, Jason Moran, Fred Hersch, Kati Agocs, Hankus Netsky, Ken Schaphorst, Mehmet Ali Sanlikol, Erkan Ogor, Anat Cohen, Yazhi Guo, Luis Conte, Kenwood Denard, Jason Linder, Ledisi and David Fuczynski. He involves into the Rhythm of the Universe and Berklee Yo-Team Projects as an Arranger, Performer, Conductor and Orchestrator, and Planet Microjam Institute at Berklee College of Music.

Artun won the 18th HALICI MIDI Composition Contest and 2nd place in the Berklee Film Scoring Contest 7 in 2011. In February 2013, He won a runner-up award of the TRT 2013 Children Choir Contest. In 2013, Artun won the Highest Award of SCAMV 1st National Symphonic Composition Contest. In Turkey, he is one the highly awarded scholars of Foundation of Modern Education (CEV) and Ankara Jazz Society (ACD). In 2016, won the 3rd place award of 9th Eczacıbasi National Composition Contest with his symphonic lied "Hiclik". Artun has done numerous international studio recordings, albums, festivals, concerts and performances such as Undeak Jazz Festival, Burlington Jazz Festival, Europalia Arts festival in Belgium, Musicacoustica Festival in China, Abu Dhabi Festival, Boston Jazz Fest, Barcelona Guitar Festival, Vilnius Jazz Festival in Lithuania and Detroit Jazz Festival. Artun had performances, touring and clinics in Switzerland (HKB-Bern & AMR Geneva), France (Paris, Sunset and Nancy, Music Academy International), Austria (Innsbruck - Treibhaus), Germany (Berlin-Aufsturz), Netherlands (Amsterdam- Panama), China (Beijing Central Conservatory) and Italy (Gezematz Jazz Festival, Genova). He did a tour with Justu Reijonen in Finland along with 8 performances and 5 workshops. Also, he had plenty of interviews, TV broadcasts and newspaper-press cuttings in USA, Europe and Turkey. With Nazan Nihal, he released their band's "neotolla" EP album - Rose Lace in 2014 and they won a Bronze Medal from Global Music Awards 2014. In 2017, they released their 2nd album "Neotolian Song" and finished their USA CD Release tour. Recently, he won the Boston Microtonal Society Award and released his solo music video "Cajonversations". Currently, he's writing new ballet music for the Ankara State Opera & Ballet's Modern Dance projects. In 2017, He composed the first Piano & Cajon Concertant in the world and he premiered it at Zorlu PSM in Istanbul with Istanbul Symphony Orchestra.

In 2015, Artun got his M.M. degree from the historic New England Conservatory with 'Academic Honors'. He has also composed and arranged over 120 pieces for symphony orchestra, as well as more than 160 pieces for brass bands and big bands. Featured on various studio albums as a piano player, arranger, and drummer. His compositions and arrangements are performed in USA, Switzerland, Turkey, Holland, China, Canada, Taiwan and Russia. Artun is working as an Arranger for Ankara Kent Bigband and Musical Director for Classical Oasis Ensemble. Furthermore, He's a voting member at The Recording Academy for upcoming Grammy Awards. In addition to that, Utar Artun is a member of SCL, NACUSA, Cagdas Turk Bestecileri and BMI. Currently, Artun is an Associate Professor at Berklee College of Music.



Jury Members

Prof. Victoria Mushkatkol

Piano Faculty, The Juilliard School Pre-College Division, New York
Founder and Artistic Director, Vladimir Nielsen Piano Festival

Pianist Victoria Mushkatkol has garnered an international reputation as a recitalist, chamber music, soloist and pedagogue, having appeared in front of orchestras in the US, Europe, Asia and Russia. Her performances have been called “incendiary,” “blazing” and “world-class” by the Kalamazoo Gazette. The New York Concert Review praised her “beautiful, deep sound” and the Grand Rapids Press hailed her tone as “full” and “vibrant.”

Mushkatkol’s artistry has taken her to leading stages worldwide from Moscow, Russia to Japan and the Republic of China, including the Royal Family of Thailand in Bangkok. In a recent concert at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall, presented by the Vladimir Nielsen Foundation, Ms. Mushkatkol was proclaimed a “splendid pianist” by the New York Concert Review, which went on to write: “Her command of the keyboard is complete; her technique is so relaxed and effortless.”

Both as a performer and a pedagogue, Victoria Mushkatkol has appeared at numerous festivals, including the Puiguerda International Festival in Spain, the Festival Soesterberg in Netherlands, the Taiwan Music Festival in Taipei, the Hamptons’ Pianofest in New York, Juilliard-in-Korea Summer Festival Casual Classics, Eastern Music Festival in North Carolina, Burgos International Music Festival in Spain, Escuela internacional de musica in Oviedo, Spain, Garfagnana music festival and Narnia summer festival in Italy and the Prague International piano Festival.

With an established reputation as a sensitive and avid chamber musician, Ms. Mushkatkol has collaborated with numerous eminent artists such as violinists Evgeny Bushkov, Julia Bushkova and Charles Casselman, cellists Karen Buranskas and André Emelianoff, clarinetist Janet Hilton, as well as the Leontovich, Veronika, and Amernet String Quartets. Her performances have been broadcast on radio stations throughout the US, while her recent discography includes recordings of Bach’s French Overture and Chopin’s Ballades and Scherzi, among others.

An internationally recognized pedagogue, Ms. Mushkatkol was on the faculties of the Interlochen Arts Academy and the Oberlin Conservatory, and has presented master classes throughout the U.S., Europe and Asia: recently in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen, China. Throughout her career, many of her students emerged as prize-winners on the international competition circuit, taking prominent places in the music world.

Making her debut with the Kiev Philharmonic at the extraordinary age of ten, Victoria has garnered awards from multiple competitions including the Chopin Competition in Leningrad and the Russian National Piano Competition, to name a few. Ms. Mushkatkol was a protégé of one of Russia’s most eminent piano teachers – Vladimir Nielsen – at the Petersburg Conservatory, from which she has graduated with the highest honors.

In recent years, Victoria Mushkatkol has returned to Russia, performing at the Gnessin Institute in Moscow, the Museum of Music, Maly Zal and Sheremetiev Palace, in St. Petersburg, State Philharmonia in Novgorod, ; as well as giving master classes and serving as the guest performer at the Festival International Conservatory week in St. Petersburg.

Victoria Mushkatkol is currently on the faculty at the Juilliard School Pre College Division, and is the Founder and Artistic Director of Vladimir Nielsen Piano Festival in Sag Harbor, New York since 2007.



Jury Members

Yi-heng Yang, DMA

Pianist and Fortepianist

Piano Faculty, The Juilliard School of Music, Evening Division, College Division and Pre-College Division

Director, Academy for Fortepiano Performance in Hunter, NY

Creator of the International Fortepiano Salon Series

Pianist and fortepianist Yi-heng Yang has been described as an “exquisite collaborator (Opera News), “suberly adept (Gramophone)” and noted for her “remarkable expressivity and technique (Early Music Magazine).”

Her work spans from collaborations on period instruments with visionary artists such as the Grammy award-winning tenor Karim Sulayman, in their acclaimed and timely album, “Where Only Stars Can Hear Us (Avie Records),” to groundbreaking and provocative explorations into Romantic and Classical performance practice with cellist Kate Bennett Wadsworth (Brahms Cello Sonatas, Deux-Elles), baroque violinist Abby Karr (Mendelssohn Violin Sonatas, Olde Focus), and harpsichordist Rebecca Cypess (“Sisters Face-to-Face” Acis).

As a soloist and collaborator, Yi-heng has appeared at festivals and series such as The Boston Early Music Festival, The New York Philharmonic Ensembles Series at Merkin Hall, The Serenata of Santa Fe Series, Sunday Chatter Albuquerque, The Dayton Early Music Series, The Frederick Collection, The Finchocks Collection, The Cobbe Collection, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Apple Hill Chamber Music Festival, and the Utrecht Early Music Festival Fringe.

Ms. Yang holds a doctorate in piano from the Juilliard School, and studied there with Veda Kaplinksy, Robert McDonald, Julian Martin. She studied fortepiano with Stanley Hoogland at the Amsterdam Conservatory. She has received grants from The Mustard Seed Foundation’s Harvey Fellowship, and The Dutch Ministry of Culture’s Huygens Award. Ms. Yang is on the faculty at The Juilliard School Preparatory and College Divisions, where she teaches piano, fortepiano, chamber music, keyboard skills and improvisation. She has also taught at The Mannes School of Music and Rutgers University. She is a director of The Academy for Fortepiano Performance in Hunter, NY, and the creator of their International Fortepiano Salon Series.



Jury Members

Meigui Zhang

The Mannes School of Music

"Her voice literally floated past the space she stood in and "lived in" and created remarkable, layered beauty." — OperaWire

Ms. Zhang will represent China in the 2023 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition. She makes her Los Angeles Opera debut in Don Giovanni (Zerlina) and her debut with the Boston Symphony at Tanglewood in Così fan tutte (Despina). She also joins the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center in J.L. Adams' Vespers of the Blessed Earth. The 2022/23 season features an exciting role debut as Euridice in San Francisco Opera's Orfeo ed Euridice, her Atlanta Opera debut as Zerlina in Don Giovanni, and a return to the Metropolitan Opera covering Ilia in Idomeneo. She also features as the soprano soloist in Mozart's Requiem with the North Carolina Symphony, Beethoven Missa solennis with Bard College's The Orchestra Now, and Bruckner's Te Deum with New Jersey Symphony.

The 2021/22 sparked with notable performances with esteemed venues. At the Metropolitan Opera, Ms. Zhang sang an "energetic, bright-voiced Thibault" in Sir David McVicar's Don Carlos under the baton of Yannick Nézet-Séguin, as well as reprised her "warm, honeyed" Barbarina in Le nozze di Figaro. She also made her triumphant debut at the San Francisco Opera starring in the lead role of Dai Yu in Bright Sheng's The Dream of the Red Chamber. As a soprano soloist, she performed Mahler's Symphony No. 4 throughout China with the Sichuan Symphony Orchestra, Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing, Bach's Coffee Cantata with Music@Menlo Chamber Music Festival, and concerts with both the Xi'an and Shenzhen Symphony Orchestras.

In previous seasons, Ms. Zhang performed with Switzerland's Verbier Festival in Die Zauberflöte (Pamina), Opera National Bordeaux and Guangzhou Opera House in Don Giovanni (Zerlina), Philadelphia Orchestra in L'Enfant et les Sortilèges, Tianjin Grand Opera in The Rape of Lucretia (Lucia), and Harbin Symphony Orchestra in Fidelio (Marzelline). Additional roles performed include the title role in Lucia di Lammermoor, Despina in Così fan tutte, Susanna in Le nozze di Figaro, and the title role in Roméo et Juliette. Previous concert appearances include Mozart's 'Exsultate, jubilate' with the New Jersey Symphony, Glière's Concerto for Coloratura Soprano & Orchestra with Camerata Notturna, and solo recitals with pianist Ken Noda at Lincoln Center's Bruno Walter Auditorium and Miami's Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

Ms. Zhang was the Grand Prize winner of the 2019 Verbier Festival "Prix Yves Paternot", a finalist in the 2019 Queen Sonja International Music Competition, and took second place at the 2020 Opera Index Competition. She won the Audience Prize at the 2020 Glyndebourne Opera Cup. While in the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, Ms. Zhang made her Metropolitan Opera debut as the Bloody Child in Macbeth, followed by Barbarina in Le nozze di Figaro. While attending the Merola Opera Program, she performed as Anne Trulove in The Rake's Progress, and at the Chautauqua Institute, she was seen as Pamina in Die Zauberflöte. Ms. Zhang earned her master's degree from the Mannes School of Music, where she was a recipient of the George and Elizabeth Award, and completed her bachelor's degree at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music.



Finalists (Professional)

Children Division A

Megan Wang	Vocal
Lucas Ding	Piano
Gary Xu	Piano
Colin Guo-Jun Zuo	Piano
Ayla Chang	Piano
Isabella Li	Cello
Laetitia Wu	Cello
Annie Ziqiao Wang	Violin
Leona Chen	Violin
Katelyn Zhushan Liang	Violin
Angela Wang	Violin
Angela yifei Chen	Violin
Rose Yun	Vocal
MAXWELL Xiao	Piano
Martin Tang	Piano
Odeeya Yang	Piano
Phoebe Zheng	Piano
Charlotte Florence Deng	Piano
Helen LI	Piano
Zikai Andy Wang	Piano
Fnu Danzengdunyu	Piano
Ivy Wen	Piano
Shaun REN	Piano
Felix Suo	Piano
Haoyu Li	Piano
Angela Cai	Piano
Xuanqi Zheng	Piano
Olivia Chen	Piano

Children Division B

James Wu	Piano
Karla Zhou	Piano
Donald Li	Piano
Lavine Cai	Piano
Lydia Xu	Piano
Sophie Tang	Piano
Eric Liu	Piano
Travis Genpeng Li	Piano
Patrick Yao	Piano
Qingdanyun Xie	Piano
Nikki Dong	Piano
Hanna Wu	Violin
William Li	Violin
Aurora Yang	Vocal

Children Division C

Alex Hu	Piano
Wyatt Wang	Piano
Josephine Yang	Violin

Junior Division A

Yifei Bai	Piano
Yilin Zhu	Piano
Noah Stanford	Piano
Shuhan Chen	Piano
Zhiwei Hao	Piano
Bowen Wang	Piano
Zihan Zhou	Piano
Eric Tang	Violin
Jessica Hua	Violin

Junior Division B

Mike Chen	Cello
Yolanda Zhang	Cello
Isabel Guo	Cello
Manxi (Elaine) Li	Piano
Ximurong Zhai	Piano
Ada Zhang	Piano
Tong-Bai Deng	Piano
JiaYi Ling	Piano
Jiaqi Xu	Piano
Owen Qu	Piano
June MeiLing Zhou	Piano
Yanning Huang	Piano
Hanru Liu	Violin
Mary HuaYi Wang	Violin
Emily Hua	Violin
Alex Zhang	Violin
Lina Tao	Violin

Junior Division C

Tristen Liu	Cello
Iris Zhu	Cello
Lucas Chen	Cello
Melanie Xia	Cello
Jenny Wu	Piano
Nora Wang	Piano
Zihe Zhao	Piano
Chloe Li	Piano
Jasmine Ji	Piano
Curtis Wei	Piano
Annie Wang	Piano
Rachel Xu	Piano
Henry Liu	Piano
Shan Liu	Piano
Sencheng Zhang	Piano
Ziqi Chen	Piano
Zoey Dong	Piano
Cloe Huang	Violin
Charles Zichang Wang	Violin
Jiyu Qi	Violin
Veronica Jiang	Violin
Gabriel Wan	Violin
Rachel Xu	Violin
Hannah XinRan Yang	Violin
Yizhen Ethan Xie	Violin
Jiayu Xu	Violin
Ariana (yucen) Tang	Violin
Philip Zhang	Violin
Melody Wang	Violin
Shane Zhang	Violin
Willow Wu	Vocal
Ka Ling Gou	Vocal

Finalists (Professional)

Junior Division D

Nathan Li	Piano
Blake Zuo-Jun Guo	Piano
James Rong	Piano
Emily Shunyao Wang	Piano
Angela Feng	Piano
Erica Wang	Piano
Selena Yu	Violin
Claudia Chen	Violin
Yu Wu	Violin
Sarah Poon	Violin
Ella HaiQi Hu	Violin
Jiang Tian Li	Violin
Claire Chen	Violin
Anne Fang	Violin
Emma Fang	Violin
Aliya Yu	Violin
Selena Yu	Piano
Ting Qiu	Piano
Kevin Zhang	Piano
Brian Jiang	Piano
Leonardo Tang	Piano
Jilin(FRANK)Zhong	Piano
Teresa Zhu	Vocal
Ye An	Piano
Iris Ai	Piano
Jingyi Tian	Piano

Concerto Division

Yolanda Zhang	Cello
Melanie Xia	Cello
Laetitia Wu	Cello
Emily Hua	Violin
Alex Zhang	Violin
Jiyu Qi	Violin
Rachel Xu	Violin
Selena Yu	Violin
Anne Fang	Violin
Emma Fang	Violin
Aliya Yu	Violin
Hanna Wu	Violin
Jiawei Wang	Piano
Curtis WEI	Piano
Bihan Li	Violin
Lina Tao	Violin
Dabin LEE	Piano
Yiyao Shen	Piano
Zhiwei Hao	Piano
June MeiLing Zhou	Piano
Yanning Huang	Piano
Shan Liu	Piano
Anna Chenwang	Piano
Ye An	Piano
Camilla Choi	Piano
Xuanqi Zheng	Piano
Ximurong Zhai	Piano
Jiayou Xu	Piano
Ziqing Lin	Piano
Zhibao Wang	Piano
Charlotte Florence Deng	Piano
Zikai Andy Wang	Piano

Youth Division

Shuwei Cao	Piano
Olivia Ouyang	Piano
Junwen Liang	Piano
Ziyao Chen	Piano
James (Xin) Jin	Piano
Ziyao Sun	Piano
Bihan Li	Piano
Yebin Wu	Piano
Kristian Cvetkovic	Piano
Keer Wang	Piano
Yupeng Mei	Piano
Zehao Bai	Piano
Zhiye Lin	Piano
Xianan Xu	Piano
Hao Liu	Piano
Xinzhu Ma	Violin
Yumeng Pan	Violin
Wanyi Yang	Violin
Shaoming Yang	Violin
Yiyao Shen	Vocal
Ranfei Wang	Vocal
Dylan Lee	Piano
Dabin LEE	Piano

Chamber Music & Ensemble Division

Yolanda zhang&Selena Yu &Curtis wei	Chamber Music & Ensemble
Curtis Wei & Emily Hua & Jessica Hua & Eric Tang & Alex Zhang & Eliza Sun & Yolonda Zhang & Iris Zhu	Chamber Music & Ensemble

Composition Division

Aisha Zihan Cao	Composition
Luke Qizhou Wang	Composition
Grace Yueqing Wang	Composition

Finalists (Amateur)

Amateur Children Division A

Anna Liu
Olivia Zheng
Eric Zhou
Hedy Liu
Kelly Chen
Henry Xie
Benjamin Tsai
Doris Yang
Shelmy Wu
Fnu Danzengdunyu
Angelina Liu
Joy Yang
Ethan YiFu Ru
Zinuo Cai
Ethan Jiradisai Ha
Denny Huang
Evelyn Jin
Kaden Zheng
Ashely Kong
Summer Wang

Amateur Children Division B

Alexander Xiao
Ares Hong
Elaina shuwen Kang
Emma Hou
Ethan Dang
Ethan Dang
Henry Duan
Jemma Jin
Jessica YanXi Wang
Jiahong Lin
Luke Guo
Mina Yeung
Norah Lu
Olivia Su
Patrick Yao
Samuel Nicely



Amateur Children Division C

Alston Wang
Chenjun Qian
Miranda Yu
Victoria ZHAn Zhou

Finalists (Amateur)

Amateur Youth Division

Kristy Yu

Amateur Division (Vocal)

Lami Chau

Ping Shen

Sharon Mah

Amateur Junior Division A

Junxi Wang

Shengyu Mei

Amateur Junior Division B

Andrew Tsai

Haocheng Wang

Jason Liang

Junnie Niu

Kyle Fan

Ruihan Zhu

Sophia Liu

Yishan Ni

Yuqi wu

Yuxin Li

Amateur Junior Division C

Allison Mah

Bonnie Shao

Clair Lining Sun

David Lin

Derek Chen

Evelyn Fu

Olivia Xia

Vincent Carella

Winnie Zhang

Yunhao Ren

ZiRui Chen

Amateur Junior Division D

Aidy Tam

Ailin Tam

Audrey Zhu

Bernie Huang

Catherine Wen

Cynthia Liu

Eileen Liu

EL Lee

Elsa Hu

Elysia Huang

Emily Shunyao Wang

Frank Bai

Grace Wang

Jarvis Zheng

Jiashuo Wang

Jocelyn Wei

John Zhang

Karen Tan

Katherine Backues

Kristen Gamsby-Jackson

Ocean Yang

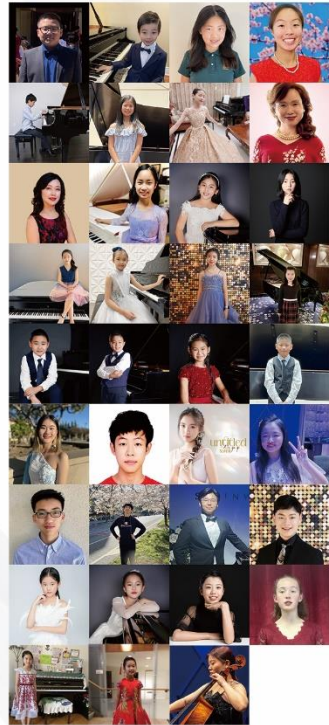
Vanessa Feng

Wanyang Zhou

William Zhang

Xiwen Zhang

Zoe Yi Wen Wang



The University of California, Irvine

Dylan Lee

Pianist Dylan Lee has been studying piano since the age of four with Ying-Chien Wang. Dylan has won countless awards and competitions as a solo artist, including the Baroque, Contemporary, and Theme Festivals from the Music Teachers' Association of California as well as Branch Honors and State Honors after his outstanding achievements in both the Advanced level and Panel Advanced Certificate of Merit levels during his youth studies. Dylan is currently a piano major at the University of California, Irvine studying under Dr. Lorna Griffitt as well as under chamber music instruction with Julliard alumnus Sarah Koo. He has recently received a masterclass from Dr. Jeanette Louise Yaryan who has given him recognition for having "really great technique". Dylan is also an established collaborative artist and has accompanied countless singers who have won prestigious vocal competitions and awards. He has recently accompanied nine singers, who all won awards, in GOCAA's voice divisions. He is also a large-scale accompanist and is currently the piano accompanist for the New Orange County Children's Choir Ensemble Group, and the choir recently performed in Vienna and Salzburg. Dylan has performed in numerous venues and centers, including the Irvine Barclay Theatre, Richard Nixon Presidential Library, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, The Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, and Carnegie Hall(Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage). To further expand his musical journey, Dylan recently attended the Orfeo Music Festival in Italy in July 2023.



New England Conservatory

Hao Liu

Born in Shanghai, Chinese pianist Hao Liu has been consistently acclaimed for her beautiful and sensitive interpretation of music with deep feeling. After made her recital debut at the age of nine, she has given numerous solo and concerto performances around Asia, Europe and North America in world famous venues such as Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU in Fort Worth, Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory in Boston, Friedberg Concert Hall at Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Shanghai Oriental Art Center, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Concert Hall, He Luting Concert Hall in Shanghai Conservatory, Hong Kong Auditorium Sha Tin Town Hall, Concert Hall of Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, Ningbo Concert Hall, Suzhou Culture and Art Center, Guizhou Grand Theater, Esterhazy Palace in Eisenstadt, Royal Music Academy Concert Hall in Aarhus, the Town Hall of Maiori in Italy. In recent years, she has also been invited to perform in important music festivals include Festival Piano aux Jacobins and CCOM piano festival in Beijing.

Also active as a chamber musician, Hao has often collaborated with both instrumentalists and vocalists and performed a wide repertoire ranging from Beethoven violin sonatas, Brahms Trios and quartets to Schumann's song cycle Dichterliebe. During the years, she has worked with exceptional artists such as Miriam Fried, Donald and Vivian Weilerstein, Seth Knopp, Michael Kannen, Tony Arnold and Eileen Cornett.

Started her musical education at the age of four, Hao received her early training at Music Middle School affiliated to Shanghai Conservatory of Music, where she studied with Jin Tang. In 2014, she was accepted in Shanghai Conservatory with the highest score and studied with Minduo Li. She has won many competitions and received various music scholarships every year. She earned her master's degree from Peabody Conservatory where she studied with Boris Slutsky. Now she is studying at New England Conservatory with Alexander Korsantia and Alessio Bax.



The Pennsylvania State University

Junwen Liang

Hailed as "captivating" by Stroll Magazine, Dr. Junwen Liang, a Chinese pianist, embarked on his piano journey at the age of nine and made his solo debut at thirteen. Throughout his career, he has been featured as a soloist with Central Texas Philharmonic, Penn State Philharmonic Orchestra, and Ithaca College Symphonic Orchestra. Further accomplishments also include performing at esteemed venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Kimmel Center, as well as being broadcast on WSKG in New York and Philadelphia's WRTI Classical Radio. In the upcoming 2023-2024 season, Junwen is poised to captivate audiences with both live and virtual performances across the United States, Italy, and China.

He has also garnered invitations to participate in major festivals such as the Texas State International Piano Festival, Lunigiana International Music Festival, Baltimore International Piano Festival, Philadelphia Young Pianists' Academy, Orford Musique, Art of the Piano, and Aspen Music Festival. Junwen has achieved notable success, securing major prizes in multiple competitions, including the YMIC International Music Competition, The American Prize, Julius Zarębski International Piano Competition, New York International Piano Competition, and Philadelphia International Piano Competition. In addition to his performances, Junwen imparts his expertise through private teaching, collaborations with professional musicians in the Baltimore Area and New York City, and adjudicating state-level competitions in the D.C. area.

Junwen holds degrees from Penn State (DMA), Indiana University Jacobs School of Music (MM), and Ithaca College (BM). Currently, he continues his professional studies at the Peabody Institute, under the tutelage of Richard Goode.



Professional Artist Finalist 2023

Teaching Assistant in the Class Piano Program at the Eastman School of Music
Piano Instructor at the Eastman Community Music School.

Ke'er Wang

Ke'er is a highly accomplished and acclaimed pianist who made her public solo debut at the prestigious Concert Hall of Sichuan Conservatory of Music in Chengdu, China, at the age of 16. Renowned artists such as Julian Martin, Jon Nakamatsu, Paul Badura-Skoda, and Natalia Trill have recognized her exceptional talent and commended her work.

Throughout her career, Ke'er has garnered numerous prizes in national and international competitions, attesting to her exceptional skill and artistry. Notable accolades include winning first prize in the National Dance, Vocal, and Instrumental Competition in Beijing, securing second prize in the 4th ZhongXin International Piano Competition in Singapore, and receiving first prize in the Concerto & Aria Competition at USC in 2016. Most recently, she achieved second prize in the esteemed 2021 American Virtuoso International Music Competition.

In addition to her success in competitions, Ke'er has been featured as a rising keyboard artist in the Rising Artist series at Lander University and as a Rising Star soloist at the Texas State International Piano Festival, among other notable performances. Alongside her chamber music partner, Zehao Bai, she has been invited to perform in esteemed events such as the Piano Extravaganza of the Southeastern Piano Festival and the innovative classical music experience, Concert Truck. Ke'er's talents have also been recognized by the governor of Xishuangbanna, who invited her to participate in one of South China's largest music festivals for New Year 1376 in Dai Calendar. Furthermore, she has served as a soloist with prominent orchestras, including the University of South Carolina Symphony Orchestra, the Virginia Williamsburg Symphonic Orchestra, and the Virtuosi Brunenses Orchestra in Italy.

While pursuing her piano studies in the United States, Ke'er has consistently achieved academic excellence and was honored as the 2015 Presser Scholar and grant recipient by the Presser Music Foundation.

Ke'er's musical journey began at the young age of 5, and she continued her studies at the renowned Affiliated High School of Sichuan Conservatory, where she received guidance from esteemed teachers such as Chenggang Yang, Jun Yang, and Jingyuan Zhang. After relocating to the U.S., she studied under the tutelage of Dr. Washington Garcia at Texas State University, further honing her skills. She went on to earn her bachelor's degree at the University of South Carolina under the mentorship of Dr. Joseph Rackers. Ke'er then pursued her master's degree in Piano Performance and Literature at the Eastman School of Music. Currently, she is undertaking her Doctoral degree in Piano Performance and Literature at the Eastman School of Music, studying under the guidance of both Dr. Marina Lomazov and Dr. Joseph Rackers.

In 2016, Ke'er and Zehao Bai jointly established the Miaomiao Piano Festival in Wubai, China, with the aim of creating a premier piano festival for pre-college young pianists in the region. In addition to her studies, Ke'er contributes to the music community as a Teaching Assistant in the Class Piano Program at the Eastman School of Music and as a Piano Instructor at the Eastman Community Music School. Her commitment to education and nurturing young talent underscores her dedication to the future of classical music.

Ke'er's remarkable accomplishments, profound musicality, and unwavering dedication make her an exceptional pianist who continues to captivate audiences worldwide.



Teaching piano at the Music School “Limmattal” in Zurich

Kristian Cvetkovic

Kristian Cvetkovic was born in Zug, Switzerland on 2nd November 1991. At the age of five, Kristian was taught his first piano lessons and in 1998, he was admitted to Musikhochschule Luzern (Conservatorium Lucerne) where he received lessons from Diana Binder until 2004.

Kristian had his first public performance at the age of six and relatively early he gained experience at larger public events. With eleven, he played for the first time with orchestra.

From 2004, he started his pre-studies at the Zurich University of the Arts (Academy of Music Zurich) in Winterthur with Professor Karl-Andreas Kolly. In July 2011, Kristian received his Bachelor Diploma in piano. His further studies led him to the prestigious University of Music & Theatre in Leipzig where he earned his Master’s degree in 2015, mentored initially by Professor Christian A. Pohl and later by Professor Markus Tomas. In the same year, he was accepted for a Performer Diploma in the studio of world-famous pianist and pedagogue, Professor André Watts in the Jacobs School of Music in Bloomington, Indiana, USA, finishing his general artistic development in 2017.

Next to his numerous engagements in Switzerland and abroad and his successful participations at piano competitions (most recent ones being, since Summer 2021, Grand Prize Virtuoso International Music Competition – 1st prize / HKPPOC – 3rd prize / Royal Sound Music Competition – 3rd prize / Global Genius Music Competition – Gold Prize / IMKA International Music Competition – 1st prize / Best Classical Musicians Awards – Gold Award / ECM Mozart 2022 Mozart International Piano Competition – 1st prize / Universal Stars Music Competition – Gold Prize / 2022 Quebec Music Competition – Gold Medal / NAVIMC – Gold Medal), Kristian wished to pursue a career in musical pedagogy. He started studying the Piano Pedagogy Master’s program at the Zurich University of the Arts in Zurich with Professor Hans-Jürg Strub in 2018, receiving his Diploma in early 2020.

Kristian is currently teaching piano at the Music School “Limmattal” in Zurich and engages himself in concerts and musical projects with fellow colleagues and his students.



USC Thornton School of Music

Olivia Ouyang

Olivia Ouyang is a virtuoso pianist known for her dynamic performances and deep musicality. She has performed in major concert halls around the world, including Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie in New York City, Eastman Kilbourn Hall in Rochester New York, Kansas Public Radio, Newman Recital Hall in Los Angeles, Le Petite Palais, Salle Cortot in Paris, YiChang Opera Theatre, Bianzhong Concert Hall in China, Wiener Saal Mozarteum in Salzburg, Centre of Fine Arts in Brussels.

Born and raised in Wuhan, China. Ms. Ouyang showed an early aptitude for music and began taking piano lessons at the age of 5. She went on to study at Wuhan Conservatory of Music for pre-college, Eastman School of Music where she received Bachelor of Music, Columbia University in Master of Music Education, and USC Thornton School of Music where she is currently pursuing Doctoral of Musical Arts in Solo Piano. During her studies, Ms. Ouyang had the opportunity to perform in masterclasses with renowned pianists such as ChengZong Yin, Chu-Fang Huang, Douglas Humpherys, Robert McDonalds, Julian Martin, Tamás Ungár, Yoheved Kaplinsky and Hongkuan Chen.

Since then, Ms. Ouyang has won numerous awards and accolades, including 1st Prize in Brussels “Grand Prize Virtuoso” Competition, 1st Prize in Salzburg International music Competition, George Eastman Scholarship, Van Lear Keyboard Award, and Gwendolyn Koldofsky Scholarship in Keyboard Collaborative Arts.

In addition to her performing career, Ms. Ouyang is also an avid educator, and has taught masterclasses and given lectures at New York City and Los Angeles area. She is committed to sharing her love of music with the next generation of musicians and audiences. Olivia Ouyang is known for her expressive playing and wide-ranging repertoire, which encompasses everything from classical masterworks to contemporary pieces. She continues to inspire audiences around the world with her passion for music and her dedication to the piano.





Michigan State University

Shaoming Yang

Shaoming Yang is a Chinese pianist who is pursuing her doctorate degree in Piano Performance at Michigan State University. Studying under Professor Deborah Moriarty, she is praised and serve as the instructor of group piano classes at MSU. She earned her previous degrees from University of Cincinnati and Oberlin Conservatory of Music.



As an active performer, she was invited to music festivals which included Master Classes at the Centro Studi Carlo Della Giacoma; Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival, International Keyboard Institution Festival. And she gave recitals in New York, Tampa, Grand Rapids, East Lansing, Cincinnati, Oberlin, China-ZhengZhou, China-Shenyang and etc.

Royal college of Music

Wanyı Yang

She is a pianist doing her artist diploma in Royal college of Music. She graduated from the Central Conservatory of Music in China with a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from the Royal College of Music.

She studied with Prof. Xu Jun from Nanjing University of the Arts, Prof. Pan Chun from Central Conservatory of Music, British modern pianist Andrew Zolinsky, and Leeds Competition gold medalist Sofya Gulyak. She has also been mentored by pianists such as Stanislav Ioudenitch, Richard Uttley, Vanessa Benelli Mosell, Helen Krizos, Nigel Clayton, etc.

Prof. Zolinsky praised her as 'A very gifted, passionate, impressive both technically and musically pianist!'. Prof. Richard Uttley commented on her performance as 'an extremely enjoyable and stylistic performance.'

She has held solo recitals and chamber music concerts in London, Beijing, Shanghai and Nanjing. In 2022, she participated in the performance of the Keyboard Festival "The Spirit of Scriabin" in the RCM Concert Hall, which was broadcast live on YouTube worldwide; in the same year, she will hold a graduation concert; In 2021, she nominated by Prof. Zolinsky to participate in the concert of the Russian Embassy in the UK, including the premiere of the new work "A Blizzar" composed by Slivio Bartoli; in the same year, she interviewed the pianist Vanessa Benelli Mosell on the topic of 'women in music' and completed a thesis. In 2020, She held New Year concerts with the China Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra in Shenzhen and other four places in China; In 2017, she performed "Art Jungle Series - Listening to Romantic Style Piano Works" at Tsinghua University.

During her time at school, she won scholarships several times and won prizes in piano competitions. Such as: The 1st place in professional youth group finals of 'Italian Domenico Savino Competition Piano' in 2021, The 1st place in the national finals of the professional youth group of 'Steinberg Youth Piano Competition' in 2019; The 2nd place in the finals of the youth group of the first Yamaha National Piano Competition; The 3rd place in the Chinese Division of the Youth Group of the 2nd 'Imola Casoni International Piano Competition'; The 1st place in the finals of the youth group of the 4th 'Macau-Asia-Pacific Youth Piano Competition'; The 1st place in Chinese Piano Competition of '4th International Chinese international Art Festival (Singapore)'.

She has recorded a whole set of solo demonstration videos for British local piano grading textbooks.





Shanghai Conservatory of Music

Xianan Xu

Master student of Piano Department of Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Vocal Music Art Director of School of Music of East China Normal University.

I began to learn piano at the age of 6. I graduated from Shanghai Conservatory of Music with an undergraduate degree and won the People's Scholarship for three consecutive years.

In 2017, I studied piano solo and chamber music performance at Shanghai Conservatory of Music with a master's degree under Associate Professor Zhang Weicong, a doctor of chamber music. And by many famous teachers at home and abroad, such as: Yilun Huang, PavlinaDokovska, Graham Scott

Awards:

- The second prize in the Yangtze River Piano Scholarship in 2016
- The title of Outstanding Performer in the Beijing International Piano Master Class in 2018.



San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Xin Jin

Currently working as Acting Principal Second Violinist in the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, Director of Auckland Academy of Music, Director of NZ Chamber Orchestra, Director of Asia Pacific Performing Arts, Music Director of the Auckland Chinese Philharmonic Choir, and Artistic Director of New Zealand International Young Artists Festival, Xin (James) Jin was born in China and came to New Zealand with his family in 2001.

In New Zealand James performed regularly in recitals and concerts, highlights of his performances include Brahms' violin concerto with the Wellington Chamber Orchestra and the Manawatu Sinfonia Orchestra and concert pieces with the Michael Monaghan Young Musicians Foundation Orchestra. James was contracted by the Wellington Vector Orchestra as Principle Second Violinist in 2007, and in the following year he was admitted, with the award of full scholarship, to the San Francisco Conservatory of Music to study with Prof. Ian Swensen.

In America James has won top prizes in competitions including the Mu Phi Epsilon International Music Competition and the Y.E.S. Foundation Young Arts' Competition. James has also worked with many distinguished teachers, artists, ensembles and conductors in the Tanglewood Music Festival, Music Academy of the West and the Siena International Music Festival.

Returning to New Zealand in 2014, James has won the New Zealand School of Music Concerto Competition and the Waikanae Music Society scholarship. In 2015 James joined the APO as Associate Principle 2nd Violinist and curator of APO's Up-Close Chamber Concert Series. Besides working for the APO, James appears regularly in recitals and concerts throughout the country as a soloist, chamber musician, conductor, and concertmaster. In 2019 James toured with the New Zealand Chamber Soloists to perform in six different cities in China.



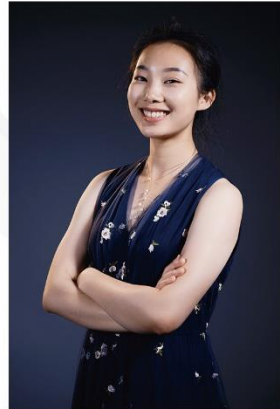
Yamaha Young Performing Artist, Eastman School of Music

Xinzhu (Zoe) Ma

Xinzhu (Zoe) Ma is an YAMAHA Young Performing Artist and is now pursuing her Doctoral degree in Piano performance and Literature under the tutelage of Marina Lomazov at Eastman School of music. Prior to her study at Eastman, she received her Master's of dual-degree in Piano Performance and Chamber Performance from University of Michigan under the tutelage of Arthur Greene and bachelor's degree under Tianshu Wang at Capital University.

Xinzhu has won many awards and scholarships and most recently, she has been awarded second prize in the Sugree Charoensook International Music Competition in 2021. Xinzhu has won her title of YAMAHA Young Performing Artist in 2019 along with many scholarships including NR-GRAD Merit Scholarship, like NR-JAMES A Walgreen Keyboard Scholarship, and NR-Joan Elizabeth Volz Scholarship. In her undergraduate years, Xinzhu was a finalist in the 7th Bösendorfer and Yamaha USASU International Piano Competition, and Grand Prize Winner in Pan Asian Young Artist Music Competition. In addition, she was also the finalist of Nomea International Competition and was a young juror of Author Fraser International Piano Competition in 2021.

She was the recipient of the Perrini Award for Outstanding Sophomore and Keller Award for Outstanding Freshman. Winning the first prize in Women in Music Columbus Audition and Student Concerto Competition, Xinzhu played Beethoven Piano Concerto No.2 with McConnell Chamber Orchestra and David Maslanka Piano Concerto No.2 with Capital Symphonic Winds in 2016. In Music Fest Perugia (Italy), Xinzhu also played Beethoven Piano Concerto No.3 with Virtuosi Brunenses Orchestra in 2018.



Music College of Hunan Normal University

Yebin Wu

Instructor: Wenting Liu

Final track:

1. "Come Paride vezzoso", G.Donizetti
2. "Parlami da'more Mariu", C.A.Bixio

21 years old from Hangzhou, China. Student from Music College of Hunan Normal University 20 grade, bass baritone bel canto singer, also a piano player with the Level 10 Certificate of Shanghai Conservatory of Music's Piano Level Examination.



Royal College of Music

Yiyan Shen

Yiyan Shen, MMus, Chinese pianist, U.N. International Peace Artists, was born in Xi'an, China. She studied piano from age 4 at Xi'an Conservatory of Music junior department. At the age 17, she studied at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and exchanged to the Cleveland Institute of Music by The Duet Scholarship and received First-Class Honours Bachelor's Degree. At the age of 22, she obtained her Master Degree in Piano Performance from the Royal College of Music, becoming the youngest distinction graduate student of 2022. She studied with many world's leading pianists Prof. Jianing Kong, Dmitry Alexeev, Aaron Shorr, Kathryn Brown, and Arie Vardi.

Her first success was Second prize at the 2012 Tiansheng Neuschwanstein National Competition. Other awards include Gold medal in The Sixth Singapore International Chinese Competition, First Prize in The Seventh Shanghai International Youth Piano Competition, Second Prize in Germany Hamburg International Piano Competition, Special Award in 2019 Beethoven Senior Intercollegiate Piano Competition in the UK and Highly Commended in Governor prize for Chamber music, Second prize in 10th international piano competition Milan. Yamaha Scholarship, Pearl River Kayserburg scholarship.

As a soloist Yiyan performed with the Chamber Orchestra of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and the Perugia Symphony Orchestra in Italy. Also completed her concert tour during 2019-2022, and has performed at many majority venues, such as Carnegie Hall, Stevenson Hall, Lang Lang concert Hall in Xinghai Conservatory of Music, St Paul's Church in Bedford, St Saviour's Church, St Mary's Church in London, etc. She also was invited to participate in many international music festivals with scholarships at the 2016 Beijing BIMFA Festival, 2018 Chethams International Piano Festival, Salzburg summer piano festival, Aspen music festival and the 2022 British Isles Festival. Her performance of 'Shanbei Qingyun' was included as demonstration performance in the teaching material of "Chinese Piano repertoires Teaching Course" of Xi'an Conservatory of Music.

Yiyan also plays chamber music and harpsichord, her chamber group represented the school in the Shanghai Conservatory of Music Baroque Chamber Music Week and performances in 2015. An ensemble album of Schubert's works released in 2020.

In addition, she is also committed to piano education and promoting the ABRSM education system in China. She has served as a piano lecturer at the Paisley Conservatory of Music in the UK, also been awarded excellent mentors at the Berya Award, Italian Coreno International Piano Competition, US Open Piano Competition, and the 12th Chopin Youth International Piano Competition. She was also a jury member at the 2019 The One Global Piano Festival, The judge of the Pearl River Kayserburg International Youth Piano Competition and held public masterclasses in China. In 2022, she recorded a demonstration video for the ABRSM's Grading Exam Series textbook by Paul Harris published by Faber Music Ltd.



Eastman School of Music

Yumeng Pan

Yumeng Pan, born in China, is pursuing her DMA degree at the Eastman School of Music under Professor Natalya Antonova. She also studied with Nelita True and Boris Slutsky during her undergraduate and graduate studying at Eastman from 2015 to 2021. Yumeng started learning piano at the age of 6. Before studying in America, She was the student in the Primary School of Central Conservatory of Music in China, and also the middle school of Shenyang Conservatory, Studying with Professor Danwen Wei for over 8 years.

Yumeng has given many piano recitals, and she has been invited to perform in many places such as National Centre for the Performing Arts in China, Beijing Concert Hall, the Forbidden City Concert Hall, Tianjin Concert Hall, Kilbourn Recital Hall, and Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall in New York City. She enjoys cooperating and playing music with others. On top of the solo recitals, she has performed many chamber music and duo piano works with her friends. She has been invited to perform concertos with Ashdod Symphony Orchestra, Shenyang Symphony Orchestra, Solisti di Perugia, and the Youth Symphony Orchestra of Shenyang Conservatory of Music.

She also achieved many excellent results in many competitions worldwide. In 2021, she won the first place of MTNA Young Artist Piano Competition in US. In 2014, she won the first prizes in both solo and concerto competitions during the 9th Beijing International Music Festival. In 2014, she won the second place of New York International Artists Association Competition. In 2013, she won the first prize of Yamaha Music Scholarship Competition in Asia. In 2012, she won the Zhou Guangren Young Pianist Award. In 2011, she won the second place in the Pearl River Kaisersburg Piano Competition. In 2011, she won the second place in the Hongkong-Asia Piano Open Competition.

Additionally, she participated in many master classes of national and international music festivals, such as 2010, 2012 Perugia music festival, 2014, 2015 Beijing International music academy and festival, 2016 Lake Como summer piano academy, 2017 Tignes International Academy of music, and 2018 Salzburg summer piano academy.



Natalya Antonova at the Eastman School of Music

Yupeng Mei

Born on April 6, 1994, in China, Yupeng Mei began studying piano at the age of six with Min Xu. He held his first piano recital at the age of eleven. In 2009, he began studying with Professor Fang Kuang from the Wuhan Conservatory of Music. From 2012 to 2019, he pursued his bachelor's and master's degrees in the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing under the guidance of Taihang Du. He is currently a doctoral student of Natalya Antonova at the Eastman School of Music.

Yupeng Mei has been awarded many international piano competition prizes. In 2022 He won the first prize in NSAL National Awards Piano Competition and the third prize in Seattle International Piano Competition in the USA. In 2021, he won the first prize in the Conero International Piano Competition in the USA and the International Music Moscow Competition in Russia. He was a finalist in both the Washington International Competition for Piano and the Weatherford College International Piano Competition. In 2019, he won the first prize in the Eastman Concerto Competition. In 2016, he was a finalist in the 17th Robert Schumann Music International Competition in Zwickau, Germany. He was also a prize winner in the China Boya Award International Piano Festival and Competition (First Prize, 2017), the Best of The Best Outstanding and Innovative Students Award in the Central Conservatory of Music (2014, Winner), the 10th Yamaha Conservatory Cup Piano Competition (2013, First Prize), and the Pearl River National Youth Piano Competition (2012, Third Prize).

He has given numerous performances in China, the United States of America, Germany, and Austria. He has collaborated with the Eastman Philharmonic Orchestra in Rochester, New York, and the Philharmonic Orchestra Plauen-Zwickau in Zwickau, Germany. He has performed in many music festivals, including the Chautauqua Piano Festival (2020, Chautauqua Institution, New York), the Bird-Music Piano Festival (2016, Austria), and the Allegro Vivo International Music Festival (2013, Austria).



**Teaching Assistant for class piano at the Eastman School
Intern instructor at the Eastman Community Music School**

Zehao Bai

Zehao Bai's passion for music runs in the family as he was born into a lineage of musicians. His journey with the piano began at a tender age of three and blossomed to a debut concert performance when he turned fourteen. Zehao advanced his piano skills under the guidance of esteemed mentors, Dr. Marina Lomazov and Dr. Joseph Rackers, earning both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music. Presently, he is undertaking a Doctor of Musical Arts program at the prestigious Eastman School of Music.

Zehao was featured as the rising keyboard artist of the Rising Artist series at Lander University, the Rising Star soloist at Texas State International Piano Festival, and many more. Additionally, Zehao and his chamber music partner, Ke'er Wang performed as part of the Piano Extravaganza of the Southeastern Piano Festival and on the innovative classical music experience, Concert Truck. In 2021, Zehao was invited to be part of the young jury panel for the Arthur Fraser International Piano Competition.

Zehao was awarded multiple prizes from competitions such as the Seattle International Piano Competition, National Society of Arts and Letters National Competition of Piano, Thousand Island International Piano Competition; Long Island International Piano Competition; MTNA National Piano Competition. In addition to competition prizes, Zehao was invited to perform with symphony orchestras including the Virtuosi Brunenses Symphony Orchestra, Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra, and Texas State Symphony Orchestra.

Besides his impressive performance resume, Zehao Bai finds fulfillment in imparting his musical knowledge to other aspiring pianists. Currently, he serves as a Teaching Assistant for class piano at the Eastman School and an intern instructor at the Eastman Community Music School, where he shares his expertise and passion for the piano with students.

At the summer of 2016, Zehao and Ke'er Wang together created the Miaomiao Piano Festival in Wuhai, China to be the best piano festival for pre-college young pianists of the area.



The Juilliard School

Zhiye Lin

Hailed by the Boston Musical Intelligence as a pianist who “breezed through the most technically difficult bits with impressive panache”, Zhiye Lin is classical pianist who is increasingly being heard in important concert halls. He has performed in many major concert halls in the world, including the Kennedy Center, Ningbo Concert Hall, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra Hall, and Shanghai Oriental Art Center. He was the laureate of piano competitions in Tokyo, Spain, West Virginia, New York, Singapore, and Hawaii. He also appeared as soloist with Mercury Orchestra, West Virginia University Symphony Orchestra, and Hawaii Symphony Orchestra under the batons of Channing Yu, Mitchell Arnold, and Joseph Stepce.

Although his father was an audiophile, Zhiye was the first musician in his family. He was attracted to music when he attended a concert for the first time, and his passion for music from that time drove him to the present day. After a few years of studying, he moved to Shanghai, which is 700 miles away from his hometown in the southern part of China, to further study music. Zhiye enrolled in the prestigious Music Middle school affiliated to Shanghai Conservatory of Music.

Known for his performance of solo master pieces, he also actively engages with chamber music. The Dawn Trio, which he founded in 2010, was awarded the second prize of the Chamber Music Competition of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Since then, he and his groups had been coached by well-known musicians, including Joseph Lin, Jerome Lowenthal, Peter Salaff, and Joel Smirnoff.

Zhiye also interested in Historical Music performance, he joined the Baroque Youth Orchestra of Shanghai Conservatory of Music as a basso continuo player and gave performances in He Luding Hall and Shanghai Symphony Orchestra Hall.

Born in China, Zhiye Lin has a great passion for Chinese traditional culture, including poetry, painting, and calligraphy. Also, he is fascinated with traditional Chinese cooking, especially his hometown style cuisine. Even though he has tried his best to reproduce Teochew cuisine in his own kitchen, he still missed his grandma's cooking during his studies in the US.

He earned his Bachelor of Music at the Cleveland Institute of Music and his Master of Music degree at the Juilliard School under the tutelage of Hae-Sun Paik and Hung-Kuan Chen. Currently, he is completing the Artist Diploma at the Peabody Institute under Richard Goode's guidance.





The 10th GOCAA New York | The 10th GOCAA Boston
International Music Competition
Final Round

Professional Artist Finalist 2023

Long Island Music Conservatory

Ziyan Chen

Name: Ziyan Chen

Country: China

School: Long Island Music Conservatory



The Juilliard School

Coco Ziyao Sun

Violinist and Educator Coco Ziyao Sun has performed as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestra musician at top international venues. She recently won second prize in the Hellam Young Artist's Competition, and third prize of the American Virtuoso International Music Competition. She won the Golden Bell competition at age 9. A prizewinner of Pearl & Julius Young Music Competition. Ms. Sun brings both passion and nuanced depth to her performances. Ms. Sun began studying violin at the age of four. She trained as a professional musician from a young age and went to the Middle School of the Central Conservatory in 2009. Ms. Sun holds both Bachelor and Master's degree from The Juilliard School study with Catherine Cho and Joel Smirnoff. She is currently studying with violinist Pinchas Zukerman at the Manhattan School of Music.



She has performed at venues both in the United States and abroad, including Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, Severance Hall, National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing, and ZhongShan Concert Hall. Ms. Sun spends her summers immersed in chamber music at the Meadowmount school of music, Aspen School of Music, Kneisel Hall, Taos School of Music. As an active violinist, Ms. Sun has had the opportunity to work with leading figures in world classical music, including Marin Alsop, David Chan, Peter Oundjian, and Long Yu. As an Orchestra Musician, she is the substitute of China Philharmonic, China NCPA Orchestra, and the New World Symphony. In 2019 she became the Fellow of the Montclair Orchestra. She is also the Concertmaster of the New York String Orchestra Seminar 2019 under Maestro Jamie Laredo.

Ms. Sun started her teaching six years ago. She is the resident faculty member of Rococo music. Her students got admitted to the pre-college program of the Juilliard School, Manhattan School of Music, Mannes School of Music, and Central Conservatory of Music. Her students recently won the first prize of the Vivo International competition and Charleston Competition.

New England Conservatory of Music

Ranfei Wang

Praised by the Boston Musical Intelligencer for his “fiery performance” and “virtuosity in full display,” Ranfei Wang is the third musician from Canada to be named a Young Steinway Artist. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in piano performance from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, where he will continue his graduate studies with acclaimed pianist and chamber musician Vivian Weilerstein. Ranfei has also studied with renowned pianists Gabriel Chodos, Susan Starr, Dr. Craig Sheppard, and Dr. Robert Silverman.

In 2023, Ranfei Wang was awarded membership to the Pi Kappa Lambda honor society for outstanding musical achievement. The same year, he was also winner of the New England Conservatory’s Piano Honors Competition. Ranfei has been the winner of the Yamaha Grand Prize, first prize winner of the International Keyboard Odysiad and Olga Kern Special Award, and winner of the Pan-Pacific International Piano Competition.

He has been designated a Signatory Young Pianist by the Global Outstanding Chinese Artists Association and has performed at concert halls in Canada, the United States, Germany, and Russia. Ranfei has also performed extensively with symphony orchestras, including at the Chan Centre at the University of British Columbia, at the Orpheum in Vancouver, and Carnegie Hall in New York. His concerto performances include Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 3, Chopin’s Piano Concerto No. 1, Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 24, and Saint-Saëns’ Carnival of the Animals.

In addition to musical performance and teaching, Ranfei Wang is also actively involved in community events in his hometown of Vancouver, Canada as President of the Vancouver Young Pianist Club, one of the foremost youth music organizations in the city. In recognition of his social contributions through fundraising concerts and the promotion of music throughout the community, Ranfei has received letters of commendation from various local organizations, provincial premiers, and two Canadian prime ministers.



Yonsei University

Dabin Lee

Graduated from Yeowon School in 2008. Graduated from the Music Department of Seoul National University in 2017, majoring in piano. Obtained a master's degree in musicology from Seoul National University in 2019. Currently enrolled in the doctoral program at Yonsei University.

Won first place in the Segwang Publishing House Competition, Music Education Newspaper Competition, Brahms Competition, and Modern Music Publishing House Competition, as well as second place in the Eumyeon Music Festival Competition. Also won the fourth prize in the 2022 Pacific Stars International Competition.

Performed in the Grand Finale Concert of the Eumyeon Music Festival, invited by the Hwaseong Cultural Foundation as a new artist, performed in the We-In Art Hall as a new artist, and performed in the Music Education Newspaper Invitation Young Artists Concert and the Maria Callas Hall Recital.

Received a diploma from the Italia Amalfi Coast Music Festival and the Piano Loop Festival in Croatia.

Performed in the joint concert of the Chopin Series in 2021 (Yeongsan Art Hall), and collaborated with the Elite Orchestra in a regular concert (Jangeheon Art Hall). And a solo concert at the Sejong Cultural Center's Chamber Hall in December 2021.

Studied under Jung Jin-woo, Kang Hyun-ju, Choi Hee-yeon, Hong In-kyung, and Yoo Young-wook (current supervising professor). Also participated in masterclasses taught by Lev Natochenny, Enrico Elisi, Jerome Lowenthal, and Wonmi Kim.



Professional Artist Finalist 2023

Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School of Music

Bihan Li

Bihan Li is a Chinese Violinist. She holds a Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School of Music. Bihan is also currently a doctoral candidate and teaching assistant at the Manhattan School of Music in NYC.

As a doctoral candidate at the Manhattan School of Music, Chinese Violinist Bihan Li currently earned international recognition as the first prize winner (Grand Prize Nomination) in the 2022 New York International Classical Music Competition. In the same year, she was a prize winner in the 2022 American Virtuoso International Music Competition and the 2022 Medici International Music Competition. During past seasons, Bihan won the first prize in the Golden Classical Music Awards International Competition and second place in the Camerata Artistic International Competition in 2019. As a chamber musician, her string quartet won the 2018 Prix Ravel and the prize of Fontainebleau Castle for the best Interpretation of the Ravel Quartet.

As a rising star on the international stage, Bihan has performed across Asia, America, and Europe. Bihan has been invited to give performances as a soloist at world-renowned venues like the Carnegie, the United Nations Headquarters in the U.S., and the Mozarteum University in Salzburg in 2018. Moreover, she was featured as a soloist and performed with the Orchestra Now under maestro Leon Botstein at Fisher Center at Bard in 2019.

An avid chamber musician, she joined Dawn Upshaw's concert at National Sawdust as a collaborative violinist, premiering composer Susan Botti's Italian Folk Songs in New York City in 2019. In addition, her string quartet, by winning the 2018 Prix Ravel, was invited to perform in the Fontainebleau Castle in France. The same year, Bihan was featured in a Mendelssohn Octet performance with her colleagues at the National Theatre of Cuba.

In addition to solo and chamber performances, Bihan enjoys her musical career as a concertmaster in orchestras. In the summer of 2017, she made her first Carnegie Hall debut as the concertmaster of the NYO-China (National Youth Orchestra of China) under Maestro Ludovic Morlot, collaborating with pianists Yujia Wang and Olga Kern. The tour continued at Beijing Concert Hall, Shanghai Oriental Arts Center, and Suzhou Grand Center in China during the summer. Moreover, she was chosen as the representative of NYO-China and gave a speech at Yale School of Music. The same year, Bihan was appointed as the concertmaster of the Bard Conservatory Orchestra under Maestro Leon Botstein and Jean-Marie Zeitouni. In 2019, she joined NYSOS (New York String Orchestra Seminar) under maestro Jaime Laredo and the Juilliard Orchestra under maestros Jeffrey Milarsky and David Robertson.

Bringing music to community spaces has always been an essential part of her musical philosophy. In the summer of 2014, Bihan was invited to teach for public welfare at the only Buddhist art troupe in China - the Hong'an Tiantai Mountain Buddhist Temple Music Troupe, as the adjunct violin faculty there. She held violin master classes and music appreciation activities, leading many to experience the charm of Western classical music in the mountains. In 2017, she performed as a chamber musician at school outreach concerts and master classes in Pennsylvania, and in the following year, she was invited to perform at Resident at Kenda on Hudson, a nonprofit life plan community. Most recently, she joins the Chamber Music Residency Program at Kimberton Hills, Pennsylvania, and was invited to give a non-profit concert, connecting with the fascinating life-sharing community that includes individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Born in Wuhan, China, Bihan holds a Master of Music Degree from the Juilliard School under the tutelage of violinist Ronald Copes, the second violin in the Juilliard Quartet. She completed her double degrees in Violin Performance and Asian Studies as a full-ride scholarship recipient at Bard Conservatory of music, studying with violinist Weigang Li, the first violin in Shanghai Quartet, and violinist Laurie Smukler. Her academic advisors include Li-Hua Ying, Associate Professor of Chinese at Bard, and conductor Jidong Cai, the director of the US-China Music Institute.

During her senior year at Bard, Bihan's paper Lin Yaoji—The Legend of Violin Education in China was published by Bard Digital Commons, and she gave a lecture on her paper as the youngest invitee at the international conference, "Being Humane and Humane: A Look at the Last 100 Years Through Chinese, Russian and American Arts, and Culture," together with faculties from Bard Early Colleges and Liberal Arts and Sciences of St. Petersburg State University. Besides, Bihan is fond with literature, and in 2017, she published her article in Music Lover magazine in Shanghai, sharing her thoughts on music and life as a musician.

Bihan is a doctoral candidate at the Manhattan School of Music, studying with Professor Nicholas Mann. Bihan is part of an international jury at the Music Star Award International Music Competition in Europe and Forte International Music Competition in USA since 2022. She works as a doctoral teaching assistant on campus and is currently based in New York City with her kitten and plants.

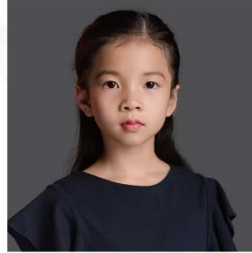




Angela Wang

Children Division A

My name is Angela Wang, I am 8 years old. I have been learning violin and piano for 2-3 years. I love music a lot and I went to the Elite music competition and got second for violin and first for piano. I got welcomed to perform the two instruments at Carnegie Hall in New York and also won second prize in the Kiwanis competition. Music brings me happiness and joy because the sound sounds like a sweet melody.



Angela yifei Chen

Children Division A

Skills and Achievements

Violin April, 2020 - Present

- Cecilia & Kevin Music Conservatory

Kiwanis Music Festival April, 2022

- Small Ensemble: String Ensemble 2nd place
- GOCAA International String Competition
- Preliminary round 2nd Place



Ayla Chang

Children Division A

Ayla Chang is an 8-year-old second-grade student in Irvine who started taking piano lessons from Dr. Angel Tang in early 2020. Ayla has achieved distinction for her ABRSM Grade 5 exam. Most recently she has won second place in the GOCAA state competition. Is preparing for the Global final round in New York. She has made significant strides in her musical career, winning several competitions, including the 2022 MTAC Composer Division I competition, and being declared the Southwest States Division Composition Winner at the 2022 MTNA also 2023 MTNA Composition Competition. Ayla has also received the Superior Award at both the Yamaha 2022 and 2023 National Highlights Concerts. She enjoys performing piano at holiday and volunteer events, while also expressing herself through dance and skateboarding.



Isabella Li

Children Division A

Isabella Li is an eight years old Canadian girl living on Vancouver. She has been playing cello for three years. She developed a strong interest in cello when she watched Yoyo Ma and Nana Ou-yang's live performance. On the path of learning cello, she started to understand the importance and value of persistence. She would like to join the community events to give back to society. By participating the Gocca, she could be more encouraged to advance in her future life.



Laetitia Wu

Children Division A & Concerto Division

As a grade 3 French immersion student from BC, Canada, Laetitia has been practicing cello for 3 years, and piano for 4 years. Outside of school, Laetitia loves reading, painting, swimming, Lego building, and making new friends!



Leona Chen

Children Division A

Leona started to learn violin at age six in Vancouver. She began to study violin with Denny Ho at Cecilia & Kelvin Music Studio. 2022 RCM Level 6 Violin Practical Exam, Score 93; 2022 Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra Debut; 2022 Kivani's Music Festival 2nd place. Leona has great passion for music and enjoys performing violin. She also likes dancing, playing badminton and reading.



Martin Tang

Children Division A

Martin Tang is an aspiring piano student with a strong enthusiasm for music. His teacher is Ms. Sophia Cui. From a young age of 5, Martin has been fascinated by the power of the piano and its ability to convey emotions. Guided by dedicated teachers, Martin has been diligently practicing and developing his skills. With each passing day, his passion for music grows deeper. Martin looks forward to exploring new repertoire, perfecting his technique, and sharing his musical journey with others.



Maxwell Xiao

Children Division A

Maxwell, a 9-year-old boy whose love for music knows no bounds. At the age of 7, he embarked on an extraordinary musical journey by picking up the piano. With each passing day, his dedication and enthusiasm for the instrument grew stronger. His commitment to his craft was unwavering as he spent countless hours practicing scales, perfecting challenging compositions, and exploring the rich world of music theory. Maxwell's love for music didn't stop at the piano. Eager to expand his musical horizons, he joined his school's orchestra, where he found a new outlet for his creativity through the captivating instrument of the clarinet. But Maxwell's musical passion didn't end there. Inspired by the allure of the stage, he became a proud member of his school's musical theatre club. This new venture allowed him to explore his passion for singing and dancing, bringing another dimension to his artistic expression. Maxwell's dream is not only to achieve musical success but also to create a world where compassion and love for others are celebrated. Through his music, he aspires to inspire others to embrace kindness, to cultivate empathy, and to recognize the inherent beauty and worth of every individual.



Felix Suo

Children Division A

Age 8, ATCL, GOCAA Young Artist
Associate Diploma Trinity College London ATCL in Piano 2022
Australia's Got Talent 2022
Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/@felixsuo>



Gary Xu

Children Division A

Instructor: Xi, Wang
Awards:
2023 North York Music Festival Level 7 First Places (3 pieces)
2022 Ontario Provincial Fina (OMFA) Level 5 First Place
2022 Hamilton Music Festival Level 5 First Place



Lucas Ding

Children Division A

Lucas Ding was born in California in 2013. He currently lives in the San Francisco Bay Area and he will be going to 5th grade in the coming fall school year in 2023. He started learning piano since he was 5 years old, and received two State Honor awards at the Certificate of Merit piano exam consecutively since 2021. In addition, he participated in Pelican International Music Competition in 2022 and 2023, and earned 2nd prize consecutively. As he is getting more into music, he also started learning cello for a year by now. A second instrument gives him a different perspective in music and enhanced his experience. His passion for music, dedication to his craft, and natural talent make him a true inspiration to all those around him.



Xuan Qi Zheng

Children Division A & Concerto Division

XuanQi Zheng, 8-year-old, started learning piano with Yoon Sen Lee Music School, since age of 4, under the tutelage of Yoon Soon Lee and Ivy Chan. At the age of 6, he became the youngest pianist who obtained distinction in Australian Music Examination Board Grade 8 Exam. XuanQi has also won many 1st prizes in competitions. Awards: 1st Prize in preliminary round in GOCAA International Music Competition 2023; Golden Prize in the 6th SAE Youth Piano Competition Guangzhou in 2023; Grand Prize in 2022 Bluthner-Internationales Festival in China; 1st Prize in the 15th Shanghai International Youth Piano Competition National Finals in 2022; 1st Prize in the final of the 4th Piano Association of Guang Dong Cup in 2022; 1st Prize in the 13th Guangzhou Piano Open Competition in 2022; 1st Prize in Guangdong-HongKong-Macao Greater Bay Area 2022 Young Artist Piano Competition Guangzhou; 1st Prize in 10th Steinway National Youth Piano Competition Guangzhou in 2022; 1st Prize in 2021 Pearl River Kayserburg International Youth Piano Competition Guangzhou;



Zikai Andy Wang

Children Division A & Concerto Division

Zikai Andy Wang, 9-year-old, started learning piano at the age of six with Dr. Olga Chichova. Since then, he has been a frequent prize winner of national and international competitions and music festivals, including the OMFA Ontario Provincial, Little Mozarts International Music Competition, Rocky Mountain Piano Competition, Music & Stars International Competition, Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival, NYMF, PMF, etc. Andy is also an award winner of Steinway's Canadian Young Artist Standards of Excellence Awards in 2021. In 2022, he played in Carnegie Hall with the New York Chamber Orchestra. In addition to music, Andy is an Ontario Junior Swim Athlete. In his Leisure time, he likes painting, ski and computer.



Charlotte Florence Deng

Children Division A

7 years old, started to learn piano with Mr. Fa'fan Xiao since 2019. She has great artistic talent. She not only plays piano and violin, but also shows aptitudes for singing, speech, writing, ballet and painting. She was accepted as member of Vancouver Bach Choir Children's Group in 2019, received the winner of 2019 Canadian Young Artist Standards of Excellence Award, Second award in 2020 Celebrating Beethoven 250th GOCAA International Internet Piano Competition and the silver award in 2020 Steinway piano competition, Third prize winner in Canada international Piano Competition in 2021, Second place in Vancouver Kiwanis Music Festival in 2021.



Katelyn Zhushan Liang

Children Division A

Katelyn started her journey to learn the violin when she was 6. Her initial instructor was a passionate university student who shared her love for the instrument. Together, they explored the violin in a fun and engaging manner. After a year, Katelyn's passion for the violin solidified, motivating her to continue her musical education. In her second year, she enrolled in the C&K music studio, where she began a more structured approach to learning the violin.

Demonstrating her commitment and skill, Katelyn participated in the group competition at last year's Kiwanis music festival alongside her fellow C&K music studio students. Remarkably, their group secured second place in their respective age category. Additionally, she eagerly volunteered to play the violin during her school's Christmas concert. Her enthusiasm for stage performances persists as she actively seeks new opportunities.



Odeeya Yang

Children Division A

Odeeya started to learn piano at age five in Vancouver. She is turning to 9 years old in October 2023, and going to Grade 4 in September. Odeeya has won Second Prize at the 8th GOCAA International Piano Competition Preliminary 2021. Odeeya has great passion for music and enjoys performing piano. She also loves ice skating, skiing, swimming, and painting.



Karla Zhou

Children Division B

I am Karla Zhou, 7 years old. I have playing piano for two years. I love music and continuously make progress in performance. I also enjoy dancing, painting and singing.



Sophie Tang

Children Division B

Sophie Tang is Ms. Winnie He's piano student with a deep passion for music. Her love for the piano began at an age 5, and she has dedicated countless hours to honing her skills. She is excited to participate in the GOCAA piano competition and share her love for music with others.



Travis Li

Children Division B

Travis Li is 7 years old, he is very well rounded and enjoys a very well-balanced lifestyle. Travis began his piano journey at age of four, since then, he has showed his extraordinary musical talent and has achieved a number of accomplishments including overall awards from Steinway Piano Competition Canada Division; First prize winner and judge's distinction award from the American Protégé International Music Talent Competition and was invited to perform in Carnegie Hall in New York city; First prize winner from the 8th GOCAA International Piano Competition; and first prize winner from the IPPA Cosero International Piano Competition and earned scholarships. Travis also loves to give back to our community through his music talents; he has participated in many of the charity concerts such as "Spring of Giving" Fundraising Charity Concert; "Sharing and Giving" UNICEF Canada Global Charity Concert. Etc.. Travis has successfully held his first solo charity concert at his age of seven, and helped raise over six thousands in support of the Liens Gate Hospital Foundation. In his spare time, Travis likes reading, playing tennis and travelling.



William Li

Children Division B

William Li is a seven years old Canadian boy living in Vancouver. He has been playing violin for three years. He loves music, and he would like to present his emotion through violin. He has acute ears to listen all the notes his parents represent to him. Sometime he likes to play some Joe Hisaish's music when he watched the Mitazaki Hayao's animation. All the background music are composed by Joe Hisaish. He can feel the characters' emotion through these music. He believes the music is one of the most beautiful language to spread out his feelings.



Aurora Yang

Children Division B

Aurora is a gifted singer who discovered her love for music at young age. She joined professional singer Wei Feng's Blue-Sky Chord at the age of 5 and began studying under Ms. Feng at 6, refining her vocal skills and expanding her repertoire. Aurora is also a member of Scrips Ballet Academy Music Theatre, San Diego, and has impressed audience with her performances. Her exceptional talent and dedication to music make her a rising star to watch.



Lavine Cai

Children Division B

- Lavine Cai is 7 years old. He loves piano with his soul and heart.
- 2022 Pacific Stars International Competition 2nd Place Age 6 and under Group
- Loves piano, soccer, and art.



Lydia Xu

Children Division B

Lydia's passion for the piano began at the age of four with Dr. Olga Chichova for 2.5 years at Canadian Arts and Music Academy. Learning to play the piano has taught Lydia the value of perseverance, patience and dedication. Despite being only six years old, her talent and hard work have been recognized and received many awards. Her impressive performance record includes appearances at Tribute Communities Recital Hall and Carnegie Hall.



Donald Li

Children Division B

Donald Li is eight years old and is from Toronto, Canada. He has been learning piano since he was 2 years and 11 months old. During the several years of piano learning, he has a very strong understanding of music, and now he has reached the eighth grade of piano RCM. In 2019, he participated in the OYMI Music Festival Competition and won the first prize. In 2020, he participated in the Steinway Piano Competition and won the first prize. In February 2021, he participated in the Global Classical Concert Competition and won the first prize. In 2022, he participated in the second Steinway Cup Challenge of "Heroes Come Out". From 2021 to 2022, a fundraising birthday concert for the Hospital for Sick Children will be launched, raising a total of \$4085 Canadian dollars for sick children. Participate in a fundraising concert for North York Hospital in Toronto in March 2023. Participate in the CMC preliminary round in April 2023.



Alex Hu

Children Division C

Alex HU, born in February 2017, started playing the piano when he was four years old. He quickly fell in love with the instrument, and has been practicing diligently with a solid piano foundation developed. Alex was awarded Distinction for all the first three grades of ABRSM, and won the First Prize of Piano Professional Children's Group of the 12th UK Royal International Art Competition (Shanghai Division) in 2022. After moving to Vancouver with his family, Alex won the First Prize of Children Division C of the 10th GOCAA International Music Competition Preliminary, and will embark on a new beginning in his piano performance pursuit.



Wyatt Wang

Children Division C

Born in New Jersey in 2019, Wyatt Wang began studying piano at the age of 3. His remarkable talent for someone so young has led him to participate in numerous piano recitals and competitions. Notably, Wyatt was the youngest piano finalist in the 10th Global Outstanding Chinese Artists Association competition.

Awards:

- January 2023: United Stars Music Competition, Beethoven Category, Second Prize
- February 2023: The 7th "Nouvelles étoiles" International Musical Competition, Group A, Third Prize
- April 2023: The 10th Global Outstanding Chinese Artists Association, Los Angeles First Round, Group C, Second Prize (First Prize Empty)



Noah Stanford

Junior Division A

Noah Stanford - Melody Institute of Music and Art, Saddle Brook, NJ
Noah Stanford started playing piano when he was 10 years old, and has been studying at the Melody Institute of Music and Art since then. He first began studying under Ms. Elise Kallah, and is currently studying under Mr. WenTing Yu, a graduate student at Rutgers University.

Awards:

International Music and Art Society 8th Annual International Talented Young Musician Olympia Competition - Grand Prize Winner



Shuhan Chen

Junior Division A

Shuhan Chen, 16 years old, started to learn piano at the age of 7 and studied with Prof. Yang Yifa, the president of Fujian Piano Association. He was admitted to the fifth grade of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music Annex with excellent results in 2017, studying with Prof. Sun Yun, the piano department of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and a doctor of piano performance in the United States. In 2019, he was promoted to the Shanghai Conservatory of Music Annex, studying with Prof. Yang Yanlin, a famous piano educator and the supervisor of master students of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music.

Awards:

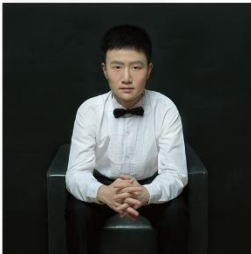
- The second prize in the professional group 3 of the 28th Chopin International Children's Piano Competition in China & Niu Ende piano Scholarship in 2020
- The first prize in the professional A group of four pianos in the 15th Shenzhen Double Piano Invitational Competition and was awarded the Niu Ende Scholarship in August 2020
- The first prize in the open B group of the 9th International Young Pianists' Competition China Grand Final in August 2022



Bowen Wang

Junior Division A

Instructor: Wu Xiao From 2019 to 2022, Wang Bowen won the first place in the entrance examinations for both the junior and senior piano departments at Music Middle School Affiliated to the Zhejiang Conservatory of Music. He achieved outstanding academic and professional achievements during school. He has participated in many outstanding student concerts on and off campus, and has won many awards in various competitions. Such as: 1. First Prize of Yamaha Music Scholarship, 2. Champion of Professional Junior Group of the 8th German Mendelssohn International Piano Competition Asia-Pacific Finals, 3. Champion of Professional Junior Group of the 12th Asia Youth Piano Festival, 4. First Prize in the Professional Category E of Perfecto International Piano Competition, Milan, Italy 5. Fourth Place in Group D of the World Piano Teachers Association International Piano Competition, Spain



Zhiwei Hao

Junior Division A & Concerto Division

Zhiwei Hao, born in 2006, embarked on his piano journey under the guidance of Quming Zhang and Tianying Zhao. In 2019, he was accepted into the Middle School Affiliated with the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, where he has been studying under the tutelage of Professor Ting Zhou. Throughout his musical pursuits, Zhiwei has attained remarkable milestones. In 2018, he claimed the first prize in the Children's Group A category at the prestigious 1st Germany Lübeck International Piano Competition. Demonstrating his exceptional talent, the subsequent year in 2019, he triumphed with the gold prize in the Junior Group A category at The 3rd Seiler and Samick Youth Piano Competition. Leaving an indelible mark in the international piano scene, Zhiwei emerged as the champion in the open group at the 2nd Deutsch-Rönisch International Klavierwettbewerb Competition in 2021. These achievements serve as a testament to his unwavering dedication, exceptional skill, and musical artistry.



Eric Tang

Junior Division A

Eric has studied the violin at Cecilia and Kevin's music studio for more than a decade. His commitment to music has been accomplished in many accolades and awards in various competitions. Recently, he had the opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York. Additionally, Eric achieved second place in the first VIMC in Vancouver. He is the concertmaster and an active member of the Van-string Orchestra and the Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra. Beyond his musical journey, Eric lives an active lifestyle and enjoys participating and competing in sports such as badminton, ultimate frisbee, snowboarding and volleyball, etc. During his free time, he immersed himself in playing sports, creating robots, listening to music, and reading books.



Zihan Zhou

Junior Division A

I'm Zhou Zihan, 16 years old, studying the piano in Grade 4 of the middle school attached to Xinghai Conservatory of Music, Guangzhou, China. I have loved music since I was a child. At the age of 5, I started to learn the piano and practice on my own initiative. At the age of 10, I began my professional study with Zhang Limu, a young pianist from the middle school attached to Xinghai Conservatory of Music, who graduated from the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris and started to follow my dream of becoming a musician when I grew up. I not only love the piano, but also have a wide range of interests related to arts. I have always insisted on learning the flute and playing rhythmic gymnastics, both of which I find very interesting. What I love most now is still playing the piano. I practice playing it with great motivation every day. Every time when I play a tune through my own thinking, I feel a sense of accomplishment. In order to exercise my stage control, I have taken part in a number of music competitions and performances, winning several awards. I have also held two piano and flute concerts, which were highly acclaimed by the audience.



Yilin Zhu

Junior Division A

I live in San Diego, California. I am seventeen. Since I was five, I have spent 12 years studying the piano. I'm so appreciative and honored that this program allowed me to show off who I am. In October, I will begin my first year of college and major in piano performance. My goal is to become an exceptional pianist and music composer who can tell stories and provide delight to audiences using the universal language of music. I won first place at the San Diego Branch of the 2019 Chopin Festival, second place at the 2021 Sonata Festival, second place at the 2022 Music Scholarship Council, and more. Thank you!



Jessica Hua

Junior Division A

Jessica has been playing the violin for over 13 years. She genuinely loves music. She enthusiastically enjoys chorus singing and playing chamber music with her peers. She won 1st place of 12-year-old strings in Canadian Music Competition in 2019. Jessica is also a multi-talented athlete. She is in the varsity teams for basketball and field hockey at school. Jessica consistently engages herself in community service programs in and outside of school. She takes leadership roles in many youth programs.



Owen Qu

Junior Division B

At the age of 6, Owen started learning piano and enjoyed it right from the get-go. Two years later, at the age of 8, he started learning with Teacher Mia at Cecilia & Kevin Music Studio in Richmond, BC. In 2022, he passed the RCM Level 10 Piano Certificate with First Class Honors with Distinction and is currently working on his ARCT Piano Certificate. He has also been learning cello with Teacher Kevin since the age of 10 and is currently working towards a Level 10 Certificate for this August. In the school orchestra, he is the principal cello and practices skills that accompanies him in school concerts. When he is not practicing these two instruments, Owen can be found doing math and spending long hours on coding projects. At school, he is an active member and co-teacher of Math Club and the founder of Coding Club, in which he acts as the leader as well as an instructor. He also takes karate lessons frequently and is currently a brown belt.



Yolanda Zhang

Junior Division B & Concerto Division

- She started cello lessons at Cecilia & Kevin Music Studio at age 6, her teacher is Kevin Wei
- Cello RCM ARCT
- Gold Medal First Prize for 4 consecutive years in Kiwanis Music Competition for 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
- 2017 Most Outstanding Junior Performer to perform at Kiwanis Music Gala Concert
- 2018 Canadian Music Competition (CMC) second prize winner
- 2019 Canadian Music Competition (CMC) first prize winner
- 2019 First Prize winner in Elite International Music Competition for 2 categories: cello and chamber music. As a result, she was invited to perform at Carnegie Hall
- 2019 First Prize winner and Most Talented Award of the 7th GOCAA International String Competition at Boston Conservatory at Berklee
- Formed the CGEY Quartet with Curtis, Emily, Gabrielle. They proceeded to win First Prize for Elite International Music Competition and were invited to perform at the 2018 Miss Chinese Pageant hosted by Phoenix Television
- Member of the van trio and van string organization (one of the principal cellists and art director) 2022-
- Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra (VYSO) member



Ada Zhang

Junior Division B

Ada Zhang is a 15-year-old musician who started learning the piano at age 7. She is passionate about music and enjoys playing her favorite tunes/songs on the piano. Ada has played in various nursing homes, performed for hospital patients, and taught elementary and secondary school students. She has received two awards from competitions, one being a GOCAA International Piano Competition Amateur Silver Prize. This year she is looking forward to competing in New York City, and learning more about music.



Henry Hanru Liu

Junior Division B

Hanru (Henry) Liu is a grade 10 student who is teaching as a volunteer at VYMA, he was introduced to violin at the Anne B. Jamieson by Mr. James Colpitts since grade 4, who made learning violin a very enjoyable and entertaining experience. After taking outside lessons, Henry has taken part in many schools holed events/performances with his current and previous school orchestras, and also groups outside of school such as the Kivanas festivals, Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra. His favorite subject is Social Studies especially with the history of the 20th century, and his hobby is to watch news and collect history related items from the 1940s-90s. Henry finds teaching an enjoyable experience, hoping to achieve entertaining the students at the same time of teaching them: inspired by Mr. Colpitts who helped to do the same when Henry was learning the violin.



Isabel Guo

Junior Division B

Isabel started to learn the cello when she was eleven years old. She began studying with Kevin Wei, her current teacher at Cecilia & Kevin Music Studio, two years ago. Isabel is an avid donut-eater who also likes to consume whatever she gets her hands on. Isabel enjoys speaking French and wants to revisit France.



Elaine Manxi Li

Junior Division B

ManXi (Elaine) Li is a student at Utahloy International School and is a member of the Utahloy Chamber Orchestra.

Awards:

GOCAA Youth Pianist Competition 2016, second prize

The 3rd Asia International Piano Grand Prix of China Division 2021, second prize

GOCAA San Francisco International Music Competition (Composing) 2022, third prize

International Piano Invitation Competition of the 2022 Music Talent Award, promotion award

Yilu Cup Youth Talent Competition 2022, first prize

GOCAA International Music Competition 2023, second prize



Jiaqi Xu

Junior Division B

JIAQI XU, 15 years old. He started learning piano at the age of 6. He has participated in music competitions in Vancouver and Carnegie and won the second prize. He has completed the RCM ARCT examination. He has a passion for music and enjoys playing volleyball, soccer, and reading.



Joy Jiayi Ling

Junior Division B

Jiayi Ling (Joy) started to learn piano when she was 5 years old with Kevin and Cecelia's Music Studio. During this time, she worked through her RCM levels until level 10, and now she is focusing on practicing piano to attend competitions so she can experience and understand music through others and in different environments. When she has free time, Joy likes to write stories, read, dance, and play badminton with her friends.



Emily Hua

Junior Division B & Concerto Division

Emily started playing the violin at four and a half. She is a talented musician and has won many awards in various music competitions. She also plays the flute in the school band and is an outstanding musician in the school's chamber choir. Emily is a long-term figure skater and competes at games. During her free time, she loves playing guitar, singing, reading, and watching movies. Emily is an active youth leader and displays leadership abilities in many community-based programs.



Mike Chen

Junior Division B

Mike Chen, an immensely talented musician hailing from Vancouver, Canada, has been playing the piano and cello since he was eight years old, and his unwavering dedication to his craft has earned him numerous awards and certificates, attesting to his exceptional talent and hard work. Notably, he was bestowed with the Second Prize Award at the 10th GOCAA International Cello Competition in 2023, with the final round set to take place in Boston. Furthermore, he was awarded the Excellent Prize at The 8th GOCAA International Piano Final Competition in 2021 and clinched the Ensemble First Place Award at The Celebrate Beethoven 250th Birthday GOCAA International Internet Piano Competition in 2020. Apart from his solo competitions, Mike has been an active participant in various orchestras and ensembles since the third grade. He has played a pivotal role in digital recordings that were pieced together online, taken part in multiple schoolwide performances, and, remarkably, his ensembles have had many opportunities to perform live at different venues, with Mike serving as the prominent cellist during these times. These experiences have helped nurture his ability to have a solo performance at the Edfic Concert Hall in Taiwan. In his latest venture, Mike will be spending his summer in Italy, refining his cello performance skills, connecting with fellow musicians, and delivering his music for many more to hear. Mike's passion for musical excellence continues to inspire many musicians and audiences alike.



Josephine Yang

Junior Division C

Josephine started to learn violin at age four in Vancouver. She is turning to 6 years old in August 2023 and going to Grade 1 in September. She has won First Prize at the 10th GOCAA New York International Music Competition 2023 Preliminary. Josephine has great passion for music and enjoys performing violin. She also loves ice skating and skiing.



Annie Wang

Junior Division C

Hi, I'm Annie, a 14-year-old pianist and synchronized swimmer. I've been playing piano since I was 8 and completed Grade 10 theory exams. Currently, I'm preparing for RCM Grade 10 piano performance exam in July 2023. I love synchronized swimming and have been training in the professional club since age 8. I'm part of the BC Target Athlete Program currently. In the May 2023 All-Canada Synchronized Swimming Championship, our team placed third in the Aerobic Routine category. As a key athlete, I am proud to have contributed to our success. Additionally, I achieved top 1% ranking in the ACMR competition this year. My dream is to become a doctor in the future.



Chloe Li

Junior Division C

Chloe Li began her piano learning journey with her mother, Dr. Yu Carole Liu, when she was three years old. She won the first place of Group 1A, in the 2015 San Diego Sonata Contest when she was five years old. She has participated in a number of musical events in the past years, performing in some prestigious concert halls including Carnegie Weill Hall, New York. Chloe has a big passion to explore the music world. She is also a violinist in the Pacific Trails Middle School Orchestra. Lately Achievements: 2023 GOCAA International Music Competition San Diego Preliminary: 1st place winner of Junior C, 2023 AADGT International Young Gifted Musicians Festival "Passion of Music 2023": Gold Medal winner of Group D, 2023 Southern California Junior Bach Festival: San Diego branch winner, 2022 Singapore International Music Competition: Gold Award winner of Category C, 2022 South California Junior Bach Festival: San Diego branch winner.



Jasmine Ju

Junior Division C

Jasmine Ju, age 12, started studying piano at age 5, her favourite composer is Frederic Chopin. She has participated in multiple local, regional, and international competitions. She has received lots of prizes including Pickering GTA Music Festival 2021 1st Place-Gold, Yip's Music Festival 2021 Gold Award, Toronto Kiwanis Festival 2021 1st-Place and 3rd-Place, 2021 OMFA 1st Place Grade 9 Piano, Take The Stage 2022 1st-Place and 3rd-Place, Yip's Music Festival 2022 Gold Award (Steinway Piano Gallery Recital (Piano) Trophy), 2022 OMFA 3rd Place Grade 10 Piano, Toronto Kiwanis Festival 2022 2nd-Place, International Youth Music Competition IYMC Grand Prize, Take The Stage 2023 2nd-Place and 3rd-Place, Yip's Music Festival 2023 First-Prize and Third-Prize, Crescendo Music Competition 2023 First-Place. She has already completed RCM Level 8 Theory First Class Honors with Distinction, Level 9 History and Theory First Class Honors with Distinction, Level 10 History and Theory First Class Honors with Distinction. Recently, Jasmine is working to complete Level 10 Piano Practical Exam in August, and is continuing to study RCM ARCT Level piano practice and theory & history.



Ariana Yucen Tang

Junior Division C

Ariana started to have an interest in violin at the age of six in China. When she moved to Canada with her family, she started to learn violin officially with Vicky Chen and was able to complete the RCM level six violin examination when she was ten. She attended a couple performances at her school in China, where she had her first performance as an orchestra. In Canada, Ariana is able to have the opportunity to attend the VYSO orchestra where she improved her skills at playing and cooperating with other people. She has participated in the Vancouver Kiwanis Music Festival and the GOCAA 2022 Music competition. She always believed that music is a very important element and makes you want to achieve greater things. It does not matter where you are when you perform when you are making music, it is like playing out a story that can help you to understand things in a new way.



Gabriel Wan

Junior Division C

Due to Gabriel's parent are Christian, when Gabriel was in mother's womb he was dedicated to God and to serve God with music talent. Gabriel study violin from Vancouver Symphony Orchestra School of Music at age of three. His first violin teacher Hannah Chung enlightens him in violin music. Few years later, Gabriel study violin at Cecilia & Kevin's Music Studio, his teachers include Francisco Barradas and Vicky Huijun Chen.

Although music is not for competition, Gabriel's father encouraged him to attend the 2022 GOCAA violin competition in Vancouver, BC, Canada at his age group for the first-time challenge. Luckily, he got the second position and will join the 2023 same type of competition at Boston, USA. Gabriel goes with his father to share gospel via music on the street at the slam area in Vancouver, BC Canada on every weekend. When Gabriel memorizes a new piece of violin music, he will perform it to entertain the street people, homeless people, drug addicted people, ...

Music to Gabriel: appreciate, enjoy, and share it.



Charles Zichang Wang

Junior Division C

Birth Date: May 14, 2009, School: West Point Grey Academy, Grade 8

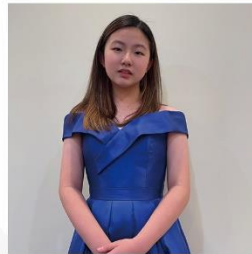
Hobbies: Violin, Math, Skiing, running, and Mountain Biking

Learning violin since Y2016, Violin ARCT level

VYSO (2019-2020) Wolfing Chamber Orchestra (2021-2023) First Violin

Van String (2021-2023) Rehearsal and Perform at Various Senior House in Vancouver

GOCAA International String Competition (Preliminary) 2023 Second Prize



Iris Zhu

Junior Division C

Iris Zhu started to study piano in 2015 when she was 5 years old and started the cello when she was 8 years old in 2018.

In 2018, she participated in the Little Mozarts Competition and won 1st place and performed in Carnegie Hall, New York. In 2019, she was recognized with the Canadian Young Artists Standards of Excellence Award by the Steinway Young Artist Program in Canada. In 2021, Iris won First Prize in Junior Division D in the 8th GOCAA International Piano and Cello Competition (Preliminary). In 2022, she won First place in Pacific International Youth Music Society (Piano) and attended the CMC final round (Cello).

As a music artist, Iris accumulated a wide variety of performing experiences from charity concerts to community events. She held her first solo piano charity concert in 2023.

Finalists



Ka Ling Tuo

Junior Division C

Instructor: Ying-Chien Wang

I am 14 years old. I am a ninth grade student in the conservatory of Classical Vocal Music at Orange County School of the Arts. It is the first charter school in California and ranked 6th charter school in America.

Experience 2022: Performed in Segerstrom Center of Arts; Performed in Carnegie Hall

2023: Performed in Nixon Library on Mother's day

Awards: 1st place at GOCAA San Diego.



Veronica Jiang

Junior Division C

Veronica has been learning violin at Cecilia & Kevin Music Studio in Vancouver since she was seven. She is currently studying violin with Denny Ho. Over the years she has participated in various performances and competitions, including Vancouver Kiwanis Music Festivals, Elite International Music Competition and GOCAA, and has achieved good results.

Veronica is a member of Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra. In addition to music, she loves speech arts & drama, drawing, skiing, snowboarding, and wakeboarding.



Shan Liu

Junior Division C & Concerto Division

Shan Liu, a 13-year-old pianist, a Year 9 student at Wolfville Rays School, embarked on his musical journey close to the age of eight when he commenced formal piano lessons. Under the guidance of esteemed music advocate Stephen De Pinige, Shan has garnered notable achievements in national and international piano competitions. His accolades include the Grand Jury Prize at the 5th Trondheim III Conservatory of Music Youth Piano Competition (2018), the Grand Jury Prize at the 2nd Evroski National Youth Piano Competition (2019), the Grand Jury Prize at the 9th Music International Piano Competition (2019) and the Gold Prize at Pacific Rim (PRM) International Music Competition (2022). Additionally, Shan has secured first place in prestigious competitions such as the 2020 Cesar Frank International Piano Competition (Belgium), the 2020 Kinga Park International Piano Competition (USA), the 2021 New Zealand Young Artist Piano Concerto Competition, and the 2022 International Piano Competition for Young Musicians (The Netherlands). Notably, in 2020, he achieved the distinction of being the youngest finalist in the New Zealand National Junior Piano Competition. In recognition of his exceptional talent, Shan was awarded a full scholarship to Germany in August 2019 to participate in a masterclass with Manfred Fock at the National Conservatory of Music. Shan's performances have gained renowned venues such as the Auckland Town Hall, the Sydney Opera House, the Carnegie Hall in New York. In April 2022, he received an invitation from the International Music Festival Beethoven 2022 to present his Solo Piano Recital Concert in Aachen, Germany, earning acclaim from local media for his remarkable artistry. A seasoned collaborator, Shan began performing with orchestras at the tender age of nine. He has had the privilege of appearing in a piano recital with esteemed orchestras including New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra (APO) in a Chamber Concerto, Auckland Symphony Orchestra, Munich Symphony Orchestra, Bay of Plenty Symphony, St Matthew's Church Orchestra and Choralists Auckland.



Yunhao Ren

Junior Division C

Yunhao has learned the Chinese Guzheng for more than 6 years. She successively studied under Xitong Ye, executive deputy secretary-General of the 29 strings Modern Chinese Guzheng Development research Center of the Chinese National Musical Instrument Society. She loves Guzheng and started to learn it at the age of six. At the age of nine, she got the seventh grade certificate of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Award: 2023 GOCAA International Music Competition San Diego Preliminary Round, ranked first.

Finalists



Jiayu Xu

Junior Division C

JIAJU XU, 13 years old, He started learning violin at the age of 6. He has participated in music competitions in Vancouver and Carnegie and won the second prize. He has completed the RCM ARCT examination. He has a passion for music and enjoys playing basketball, soccer, and reading.



Jiyu Qi

Junior Division C & Concerto Division

Violin: Starts learning violin since the age of 8. Practice violin 2 hours every day on average. Music Theory: Merged passion about music history. Enhanced music analysis skills through practice. Achieved ARCT Music History at age 11, achieved ARCT Harmony & Counterpoint at age 12, achieved Level 10 Violin at age 13.



Hannah Yang

Junior Division C

Hannah Yang is a student in 7th grade. She plays the piano and violin. Hannah started playing the violin when she was three, and the piano when she was six. Ever since she was very young, music has been a big part of Hannah's life. At age eight, Hannah performed piano at Carnegie Hall. Following this, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected the world. During the pandemic, Hannah completed multiple examinations including piano, voice, music theory, and piano pedagogy examinations. Some competitions she participated in were the Kiwanis festival for solo piano and group violin, GOCAA for violin, and the Elite Music Competition for piano. Hannah started to learn music theory when she was eight. Since then, she has completed multiple theory exams including AP Music Theory where she scored full marks. During this time, Hannah also joined an orchestra for three years. In 2021 she won second in the VAM annual concerto competition and played violin with the orchestra. Following her first year in orchestra, she also joined a piano trio. Hannah is also interested in songwriting and composition. At school, she plays the trumpet in the grade 7 band and sings in a choir. Other than music, Hannah also enjoys learning history, writing, dancing, and participates in robotics.



Cloe Huang

Junior Division C

At 11, Cloe was intrigued by the violin. She took lessons at VAM for two years, and reached level two. She then started and continues to take lessons at C & K violin and Piano studio, and she is now level 8. To her, playing the violin is like exploring the other half of her, and she really enjoys it. This is her first competition for an instrument. Cloe continues to experiment with the violin and is eager to accomplish the musical goals she set for herself. She is also joining the junior honors strings at Lord Byng, which will bring her a different experience with the violin. In addition, Cloe is in the visual art program at Lord Byng, and enjoys dance, and volleyball.



Jenny Wu

Junior Division C

Jenny Wu is a rising 9th grader. She started playing piano at the age of 8 and is currently studying under Mr. Dan Yu. Over the past few years, she has won prizes in several piano competitions, including the 2019-2022 MTAC San Diego Sonata contests and the 2023 Bach Festival. She has also participated in multiple other competitions.



Yizhen Ethan Xie

Junior Division C

Ethan Xie, a young musician who was born in China in 2010 and now lives in Vancouver, Canada. Ethan has been learning the violin for 6.5 years, and he has made some exciting achievements. He started playing with the Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra (VYSO) as the first violist and continued as a junior member for 4 years. He joined Van Strig Orchestra in 2022 and performs in senior houses. In school, he plays the first violin in the orchestra, adding his musical touch to the group's performances. Ethan has also taken part in the Kowans Music Competition to show off his violin skills. Ethan's dedication to the violin has led him to accomplish Grade 10 with first-class honors, showcasing his exceptional skill and commitment to the instrument. In addition to his violin accomplishments, Ethan has also achieved Grade 6 with first-class honors in piano. Ethan's musical journey is still unfolding, and he's eager to keep growing as a musician. With his dedication and passion, there's no doubt he'll continue to make progress and bring joy to others with his music.



Zihe Zhao

Junior Division C

13 years from Xinjiang, China. Bobby began to learn the piano at the age of four. He performed many times and won awards in various competitions.

Awards:

1. First prize of the 8th Steinway National Youth Piano Competition, Amateur Group A, Xinjiang
2. Second prize of the 17th Xing Hai Cup National Piano Competition, Amateur Group B, Xinjiang
3. First prize of the 9th Steinway National Piano Competition, Amateur Group A, Xinjiang
4. First prize of the 12th Chopin Piano Competition for Young People, Junior Group A, Hainan
5. First prize of the 8th Global Outstanding Young Player Selection Competition, Junior Group D, Hainan
6. First prize of the 7th Lanzhou International Piano Ranking Competition, Haydn's Works Group
7. First prize in the Final of the 8th Global Outstanding Young Player Selection Competition
8. Second Prize in Finals of the 8th Global Outstanding Young Player Selection Competition, Professional Group D, China
9. First prize of the 5th Liszt International Piano Competition, Hainan
10. First prize of the 8th Lanzhou International Piano Open, Mozart Group, Xinjiang



Sencheng Zhang

Junior Division C

Sencheng Zhang has been accepted to the Juillard School Pre-College as a Piano major on April 18 of 2021. At the age of 3, he began to learn piano from his mother. At age 10, he continued to study piano with Matti Raakkila and his mother. Latest Awards: 1) In the European Music and Stars international classical music competition in December 2020, the Winner of the Highest award GRAND PRIX "CROWN OF STARS" And signed a contract with the European knais classic record company. 2) The national finals of the 10th Macao Piano Invitational Competition in 2021 won the "Jury Award" of the professional youth group. 3) The 2021 European Carlen and Sofia piano competition won the gold medal, and also won three "best performance awards", namely, "Beethoven performance award", "Franz Schubert performance award", and "Brahm 20th-21st century works performance award". 4) November 2022, WPTA Singapore International Piano Competition, Won the Piano Concerto PLATINUM BEST CLASSICAL MUSIC AWARD and was invited to perform at Singapore's YST Conservatory of Music. 5) Awarded the GOLD MEDAL at the International Young Gifted Musicians Festival "The Passion of Music 2023" And was invited to participate in the performance at Carnegie Hall in New York, USA. 6) American Protégé International Concerto Competition 2023, Sencheng won First Place Winner (Age Category 12 and under) and was invited again to participate in the performance at Carnegie Hall in New York, USA.



Shane Zhang

Junior Division C

Shane started learning violin in 2018 when he was 8. He studied at the Cecilia and Kevin Music studio and is now studying RCM level 7 music. Last year, he participated in the GOCAA preliminary round as well and got third prize. In his last RCM exam, level 5, he got 86 and also did very well on RCM theory exams. For him, listening to music reminds him of road trips and other relaxing times like that, which is one of the reasons he enjoys it. Aside from playing and listening to music, he also enjoys hiking, reading, skiing, and other activities too.



Rachel Xu

Junior Division C & Concerto Division

Rachel Xu, 13 years old, began to study both the violin and piano in 2019 at age 9. In 2021, Rachel received 2nd place in Pacific Rim International Competition (Piano). In 2022, she was awarded the Canadian Young Artist Standards of Excellence Award by the Tom Lee Music and Steinway Young Artist Program. In June of 2022, Rachel performed Beethoven Piano Concerto in C Major (third movement) at UBC Chan Center. Rachel also won first place in GOCAA International Piano and Strings competition (preliminary) in 2022. Rachel enjoys music with passion and is currently working on her ARCT repertoire for both instruments.



Lucas Chen

Junior Division C

From Los Angeles, California, currently, in Vancouver, Canada, thirteen-year-old Lucas Chen possesses an unwavering passion for music. He embarked on his musical journey at the tender age of 4 and, over the past three years, has dedicated himself even more fervently to his craft. In the summer of 2022, he seized a remarkable opportunity to perform at Taiwan's esteemed Edlis Concert Hall, leaving an indelible mark on the audience. Lucas has actively participated in numerous Cello and Piano performances throughout his blossoming career, gracing orchestras from Taiwan to Canada, where he has had the privilege of showcasing his musical prowess through captivating solos. Lucas has garnered a collection of prestigious accolades as both a pianist and a cellist. In the esteemed 10th GOCAA Cello preliminary round, he secured the First Prize and is ecstatic to be attending the finals in the upcoming summer of 2023. Similarly, in the esteemed 8th GOCAA International Piano Final Competition, Lucas emerged triumphant, claiming the First Prize and earning high praise from Matthew Odell, a renowned piano instructor at Juillard School, who commended his sensitive and accomplished performances. Andreas Stier, a distinguished Piano Professor at the HMTI Hamburg, who also hailed his performance as a genuinely classical rendition.



Curtis Wei

Junior Division C & Concerto Division

Piano - Since four years old
RCM ARCT level with first-class honors with distinction (2021) (CA)
GOCAA International competition first prize - 2019, 2020, 2021 (2022 US)
OMNI International competition first prize - 2021 (CA)
Canadian Young Artist Standards of Excellence Awards - 2020, 2021 (CA)
Title International Competition first prize - Carnegie Hall performance - gala recital - best performance reward- 2019 (US)
Russian International Piano Competition first and third prize - 2016, 2017, 2018 (CA)
Canadian Music Competition - finals third prize - 2017 (CA)
Hold solo recitals for the Richmond hospital (CA)

Violin - since five years old
RCM level 10 with first honors (2021) (CA)
GOCAA International competition first prize (solo and string ensemble) - 2019, 2020, 2021 (US)
Title International Competition first prize - Carnegie Hall performance - 2019 (US)
Kiwanis music festival (solo, string group, string ensemble) - all first prizes - 2016, 2017, 2018 (CA)



Ziqi Chen

Junior Division C

Chen Ziqi is 12 years old. She has been learning piano for 8 years. Her tutor is Huang Tiandong. Award experience: In 2023, I won the sixth prize of YAMAHA Scholarship in Attached Middle School Group (12 ~ 17 years old); 2023 Guangdong Provincial Society Cup Professional Group fourth second prize; In 2022, won the first prize in the professional group of Meishu International Music Festival; Excellence Award of Amateur group in the 2022 Zhonghai Cup National Final; Won the first place in the Cup group of Guangdong Provincial Society in 2022 and won the title of "Guangdong Qiyang".



Philip Zhang

Junior Division C

Philip Zhang is a 12 year old from San Diego, California. I Love learning music as it brings calm to my mind and helps me calm down in stressful situations. Besides playing the violin I also have been playing piano for about 5 years now. I started playing violin in my elementary school orchestra when I was in 5th grade, but started to take private lessons with Xiaofeng Wang after I joined the Shen Viede Middle School Orchestra. I am currently a 7th grader and have been taking private lessons for almost 2 years. I have a lot of interest in this instrument and want to improve as quickly as possible. Despite being in my Middle School Orchestra, I am also in the Hope Music Ensemble under the direction of Xiaofeng Wang. In the file below I am playing Sonata no.4 in d major HWV 371 2nd movement by Handel.



Melody Wang

Junior Division C

My name is Melody, and I am a 12 and a half-year-old aspiring violinist. I started my violin journey at the age of 9 and have successfully passed the Grade 10 theory exam and Grade 6 violin performance exam. This year, I achieved an impressive top 5% ranking in the ACM8 examination. Aside from my love for music, I have a variety of interests and hobbies. I enjoy playing basketball, reading, building with LEGO, and cooking. Furthermore, I actively engage in community service and fundraising activities through the Girls Guide program. Thank you for taking the time to read my brief introduction. I am excited to continue nurturing my musical talents, pursuing my hobbies, and making positive contributions to the community.



Stephen Jiang Tian Li

Junior Division D

Stephen (Jiang Tian Li) began learning the violin at the age of five in his hometown. He showed great enthusiasm and dedication towards music from a young age. At the age of ten, he started taking violin lessons with Shiny Zhang at Cecilia & Kevin Music Studio, a violinist and experienced violin teacher. Stephen thoroughly enjoys participating in competitions and finds them to be exhilarating experiences. He eagerly embraces the opportunity to showcase his skills and compete against others. He reached the final round of the 2021 Vancouver International Music Competition and received a Bronze Prize at the 2022 VAYA International Festival. In addition to his violin studies, Stephen has a diverse range of interests. He is an avid reader and finds inspiration in literature. He also has a deep love for soccer. These hobbies provide Stephen with a well-rounded and balanced lifestyle. Stephen's passion for music continues to grow, and he strives for excellence in his violin playing.



Jingyi Tian

Junior Division D

Jingyi Tian is a 10-year-old male pianist from Vancouver, Canada. He began learning the piano at the age of 9 and has shown remarkable progress despite having only studied for 1.5 years.

Awards:

1. Third Prize in the "Finger Rapid Movement" category at the 5th Dan Zhao Yi Piano Teaching Exhibition and Performance Invitational Competition in 2022.
2. Second Place in the Junior Graded Division Classical Grade 5 at the 2023 Vancouver Kiwanis Music Festivals.



Angela Feng

Junior Division D

At the age of 8, Angela began to study piano with instructor Ruisha Zhang at the Claremont Community School of Music. Due to the impact of the pandemic, she was interrupted for a year and half. Afterwards, she has continued to study through online classes with Ms. Zhang until now.

Award

2022 The 65th John Child Walker Music Competition, Third Place



Erica Wang

Junior Division D

Erica Wang was born in America in 2012, but had grew up in China. She started piano when she was five, learning with professor Pan Yi. In 2018, Erica had compete in China XingHaiBei, and China ChangJiangBei, both winning the 2nd prize. In 2020, she was moved to Canada, right now learning with professor Tu Weiwei. In 2022, she had competed in the GOCAA, and got Vancouver 2nd place, also was invited to go to New York for the final.



James Rong

Junior Division D

James Rong is a 6th grade student at Mesa Verde Middle School in San Diego, California. He has been studying piano with Dan Yu since age 6.

Awards:

- 2022 Music Teachers' Association of California (MTAC) San Diego Sonata Contest, Group 9, first place
- 2022 MTAC San Diego Chopin Festival, Division 1, first Place
- 2022 H. B. Goodlin Scholarship Competition, Division 1, finalist
- 2021 H. B. Goodlin Scholarship Competition, Division 1, winner
- 2021 Southern California Junior Bach Festival, winner
- 2020 MTAC San Diego Sonata Contest, Group 5A, first place
- 2020 H. B. Goodlin Scholarship Competition, Division 1, winner
- 2018 MTAC San Diego Sonata Contest, Group 3A, second place



Ella Haiqi Hu

Junior Division D

Ella (Ella Haiqi) Hu embarked her musical journey at the age of 8 in late 2019 at the C&K Music studio, finding her passion for the violin. As the pandemic forced everyone into quarantine, she found solace and happiness in playing the violin. In 2022, at just 10 years old, Ella's talent shone brightly as she won first place with a Small Ensemble at the Vancouver Kwaiwasi Music Festival. Joining the V Y S O debut orchestra in the 2022-2023 season provided Ella with further opportunities to mature her musical growth. Additionally, she dedicated her weekends to performing for seniors at care homes, bringing them joy and strengthening her confidence as a performer. Throughout her four-year journey, Ella learned invaluable lessons from her teacher Cecilia, solidifying her dream of becoming a violinist. Ella's unwavering dedication and ability to touch lives through music propel her toward a promising future in the field. Her passion for the violin continues to drive her, and she eagerly looks forward to the remarkable opportunities that lie ahead.



Emily Shunyao Wang

Junior Division D

My name is Emily Shunyao Wang, I was born on October 9, 2011 in Changchun, Northeast China. At the age of 7, I settled in the southern city of Guangzhou. Currently, I'm fifth grade. I study at Canadian International School of Guangzhou. I have been studying piano and composition with Miss Shiwei Wu and Miss Zhiqing Chen from ALM Academy affiliated to QingYunYaju since Dec. 2018. During this period, I participated in various music camps, master courses, competitions, grading exams, TV Spring Festival Gala shooting and concerts, and have achieved many remarkable milestones. From learning piano and composition, I realized that all success requires effort and dedication, and I gradually began to enjoy the perseverance in facing difficulties, to feel the joy of breakthroughs and progress! I hope to become an artist and educator in the future, to have my own unique color in the world.



Stephen JiangTian Li

Junior Division D

Stephen (JiangTian Li) began learning the violin at the age of five in his hometown. He showed great enthusiasm and dedication towards music from a young age. At the age of ten, he started taking violin lessons with Shiny Zhang at Cecilia & Kevin Music Studio, a violinist and experienced violin teacher. Stephen thoroughly enjoys participating in competitions and finds them to be exhilarating experiences. He eagerly embraces the opportunity to showcase his skills and compete against others. He reached the final round of the 2021 Vancouver International Music Competition and received a Bronze Prize at the 2022 VAVA International Festival. In addition to his violin studies, Stephen has a diverse range of interests. He is an avid reader and finds inspiration in literature. He also has a deep love for soccer. These hobbies provide Stephen with a well-rounded and balanced lifestyle. Stephen's passion for music continues to grow, and he strives for excellence in his violin playing.



Frank Zhong

Junior Division D

JILIN (FRANK)ZHONG, began to learn piano in September 2020, when he was eight years old. He won the second prize of White Rock & Surrey Music Festival in Fall 2021, and the Second prize of the 9th GOCAA San Francisco International Music Competition 2022(Preliminary) in 2022.

Frank likes to listen to lyrical and explosive music. He is very interested in trying to find the piano sheet music to play the music he likes.



Kevin Zhang

Junior Division D

My name is Kevin, I am 12 years old and I played the piano for six years. Learning piano at Cecilia and Kevin Music Studio. I received First Class Honors with distinction in my Royal Conservatory Level 8 piano exam. I really enjoy playing the piano so I usually volunteer to go to the Amica Seniors' Home to play. Every time I see the seniors feel comforted and happy about my music. I also feel more motivated to continue to work harder. In my school, I participated in a piano performance at the Multicultural dinner. I also play the clarinet in my school band. Playing the piano has made my life meaningful because it not only improves my memory, but also makes me more confident. In 2019, I had the opportunity to perform at A Millers Falls Broadway Musical Charity Concert which made me more comfortable with stage presence. This month, in May I was awarded first place in the Vancouver Elementary Badminton Competitive Jamboree for my group. I also like reading, drawing and skiing.



Leonardo Tang

Junior Division D

Leonardo Tang, a talented 10-year-old piano student, possesses a remarkable passion for music. With his fingers dancing across the keys, Leonardo creates melodies that enchant those who listen. Despite his young age, he has already shown great dedication and perseverance in his piano studies. He had completed RCM level 10 exams and achieved first honor roll in the exams. He had been awarded second place at the Crescendo Piano Competition in 2022. Leonardo is excited to showcase his skills in the GOCAA piano competition, where he hopes to inspire others with his musical talent and love for the piano.



Sarah Poon

Junior Division D

Sarah is a talented and enthusiastic 11-year-old musician from Vancouver, Canada. She is an accomplished violinist and pianist, having started playing the piano at age of 6 and the violin at the age of 8. She studies violin with Francisco Eduardo Barradas Galván in Cecilia and Kevin Studio, Vancouver, BC. She has participated in various music programs and concerts, including Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra. She has won the second place in Vancouver Kiwanis Music Festivals in 2022 for small violin ensemble. In addition to her musical talents, Sarah also enjoys Chinese Dance and has performed in many events, showcasing her grace and agility. Her experiences in dance have taught her discipline and focus, qualities that she applies to her music practice as well.



Selena Yu

Junior Division D

Selena Yu, born on 21 June 2011, is now 11 years old. She is currently in Grade 6 at Crofton House School. She is a music ambassador at her school and is working to bring musical education and spread a love of music throughout her school. She began to learn piano when she was five. She is on RCM level 10 for piano. Selena is passionate about music and has participated in many competitions; she is a first prize recipient of the International Russian Music Festival, as well as GOCAA International Competition, and Elite International Competition — enabling her to perform at the prestigious Carnegie Hall. Besides piano, she also plays violin. Her violin is on RCM ARCT. She has also received a first prize for GOCAA, and Elite International Competition. Selena has also competed in the CMC finals and participated in the Kiwanis Music Festival and placed for second prize. She was also the concertmaster of her local youth symphony orchestra (VYSO).



Teresa Zhu

Junior Division D

Teresa Zhu, was born and grew up in Southern California. She shows a strong love for music. She has been in NOCCC choir for 7 years. She has been under soprano training for the last three years. She has won The 9th Hong Kong International Music Festival Junior Pop Voice Excellent Gold Award in 2022. In 2023, she will start a new music journey in Classic Voice program of the Orange County Art School. Besides singing, she also enjoys arts, volleyball and archery.



Ting Qu

Junior Division D

Hello, my name is Ting Qu from C&K music studio in Vancouver, and I am 11 years old. I began learning to play the piano when I was 5 years old. Learning new things can be tough, and I found it challenging to keep up with the piano lessons. My teacher, Mia, always encourages me for each tiny improvement. My pet, Wangsiang, is my loyal audience, whatever I play. My mom always tells me to take it slow and not give up easily. As I kept practicing and improving, I discovered that playing the piano can actually be really enjoyable. Now, one of my favorite things to do is to search for piano sheet music of my favorite songs online and play them on the piano. It's so much fun to be able to play the music that I love and express myself through playing. This is my first time participating in a live piano competition, and I feel a bit nervous. Thinking of those who support me makes me confident as I step onto this stage. I'm still learning new things every day, but I'm excited to see where my piano playing journey will take me in the future.



Brian Jiang

Junior Division D

Started to learn piano at age six in 2018 at Cecelia & Kevin Music Studio in Vancouver, BC. He has great passion for music and enjoys performing piano, and exercises everyday autonomously. At age 10, he passed the RCM Level 8 Piano Practical Exam. In 2020, Brian participated in the Ocean Wise Conservation online concert of Cecelia's studio to help and support Vancouver Aquarium during Covid-19 period.

Brian admires Einstein who said, "If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician. I often think in music. I live my daydreams in music. I see my life in terms of music." Brian is so grateful that he has piano in his life!



Yu Wu

Junior Division D

Yu Wu began her musical journey at the tender age of 4, starting with piano lessons in China. She later expanded her skills to include the violin at age 6. Since she turned 8, her started studying violin with Cecelia and Denny Ho at Cecelia & Kevin Music Studio. Now, Yu Wu is diligently preparing for the RCM Level 10 Piano Practical Exam, along with practical and theory examinations for violin. She has demonstrated her talent as the principal violinist in the Lord Byng Elementary strings for two years, indicating her commitment and skill in music. Yu Wu's dedication to her craft has not gone unnoticed. She is a winner of local competitions, earning the second place as a group in the Kwamis competition. She also secured the second prize in the 2023 GOCAA Competition in Vancouver, further cementing her standing as a promising young talent in the field of music.



Claudia Chen

Junior Division D

Claudia started to learn violin at age six in Vancouver. She began to study violin with Denny Ho at Cecilia & Kelvin Music Studio. Claudia has great passion for music and enjoys performing violin. She also likes dancing, swimming, and reading.

2020-2023 Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra;
2022 Kiwanis Music Festival 2nd place.



Nathan Li

Junior Division D

Instructor: Sergei Saratovsky

Nathan is 12 years old from Richmond BC, Canada. Nathan began to learn piano at the age of four. He performed numerous times at the local music festivals and Christmas festivals. He recently earned first place and second places at Vancouver Kiwanis music festival for both piano and voice competitions.



Claire Chen

Junior Division D

Claire Chen is an 11-year-old violin student from Vancouver, BC, Canada. From 2020 to 2023, Claire had the privilege of studying under Dr. Francisco Ibarra, a renowned violinist and educator at Cecilia & Kevin Music Studio. With a deep love for the violin since the age of 6, Claire has achieved remarkable milestones.

- 1st Place in Small Ensemble: String Ensemble - Vancouver Kiwanis Music Festivals - 2022
- First Prize - Children Division A - The 8th GOCAA International String Competition (Preliminary) - 2021
- Gold Medal - BC & Yukon Region - RCM Level 5 (2021-2022)
- Gold Medal - BC & Yukon Region - RCM Level 3 (2020-2021)

Since 2021, Claire Chen has been a member of the Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra (VYSO), an organization renowned for nurturing young musical talents and providing them with opportunities to excel. As a member of VYSO, Claire has the privilege of collaborating with fellow accomplished musicians under the guidance of esteemed conductors and mentors.



Hanna Kai Wing Wu

Children Division B

Hanna Kai-Wing Wu was born in July 2015. She is currently a Grade 2 student at St. Francis Xavier School. Hanna began to learn violin with Cecilia Xu in Cecilia & Kevin Music Studio in March 2021. Hanna got String Ensemble the Second Prize in Vancouver Kiwanis Music Festivals in 2022. Hanna loves music, music will be her forever friend in life. She also loves swimming, badminton and reading.

Finalists



Alex Zhang

Concerto Division & Junior Division B

Alex has been playing the violin for almost 6 years in Canada and has fallen in love with the violin. When he was 9 years old, he started his violin journey with Cecilia Xu all the way to finishing ARCT violin. Alex also has completed level 6 piano as well as an ARCT music theory. Alex is a winner of many local and international competitions. First place at Carnegie Hall Elite International Music Competition at New York, U.S.A. Second place at 2022 Vancouver, Canada Kowans Music Festival String Ensemble and multiple other prizes. Second place in the GOCAA International Strings Competition in the Preliminary round to qualify for the Global Finals here at Boston. Third prize in the 2021 GOCAA International Strings Competition in the Preliminary round. Alex has a passion for the violin and loves spreading the joy of music through performances. He also loves playing basketball, soccer, reading, helping others and even is the president of a club at his school.



Aliya Yu

Concerto Division & Junior Division D

Aliya is a 10-year-old girl who has been learning the violin with CC for more than three years. She is grateful for CC's guidance and support on her musical journey. Through violin, she explores the beauty of the fast-paced world whilst enjoying the learning process. Beyond that, Aliya spends her time on reading, drawing, and playing sports. She is looking forward to bring her love for music to the GOCAA Boston Music Competition. She hopes to receive feedback from judges and other musicians to expand her horizons and set new goals for her next step.



Anne Fang

Concerto Division & Junior Division D

Anne is a vibrant and spirited young individual, exuding confidence and fearlessness in all aspects of her life. She consistently extends unwavering support to her loved ones, showcasing her empathetic nature. Anne possesses a remarkable talent for creative problem-solving, consistently exploring innovative solutions. She channels her artistic inclinations into the realm of fine arts, where her imagination knows no bounds. Her stunning paintings serve as heartfelt gifts to her peers and teachers, a testament to her boundless creativity. In addition to her artistic pursuits, Anne finds solace and passion in the graceful realm of figure skating. This elegant sport not only showcases her athleticism but also exemplifies her disciplined and determined personality. Through figure skating, Anne is able to express herself in unique and captivating ways. But Anne's artistic talents don't stop there. In her spare time, she skillfully plays the violin, using it as a medium to perceive and connect with the world around her. The violin becomes a conduit for her emotions, enabling her to forge meaningful connections with others through the universal language of music. As an active member of the Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra, Anne collaborates with fellow musicians to practice and perform, showcasing her musical talents and nurturing her love for music. Her involvement in the orchestra has helped her receive recognition in the past, which has further fueled her passion and motivated her to pursue music at a higher level. She also passed RCM Theory Level 10 Harmony and Counterpoint recently.



Emma Fang

Concerto Division & Junior Division D

Emma is a remarkable individual who exhibits a strong interest in learning about society and different cultures. Her respectful nature towards every individual and her desire to become a responsible kid demonstrate her maturity and empathy. She actively seeks opportunities to help others, showcasing her persistence and dedication to making a positive impact in her community. As a member of the Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra, Emma actively collaborates with fellow musicians to practice and perform. This involvement not only allows her to showcase her musical talents but also nurtures her love for music. The recognition she has received in the past has fueled her passion and motivated her to pursue music further. Emma's commitment to the violin as her primary instrument highlights her dedication to mastering her craft. Her passion for music extends beyond mere participation in the orchestra, as she aspires to pursue the violin long-term. This ambition is a testament to her drive and enthusiasm for her art. In addition to her musical pursuits, Emma engages in figure skating with great discipline and determination. Figure skating demands control, focus, and perseverance, all qualities that Emma exhibits on the ice. She finds joy in gliding across the ice and syncing her movements with music, further demonstrating her appreciation for the arts. Overall, Emma is a well-rounded and talented individual. Her eagerness to explore different cultures, her involvement in the Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra, her dedication to the violin, and her disciplined approach to figure skating all contribute to her growth as a responsible and passionate individual. She also passed RCM Theory Level 10 Harmony and Counterpoint recently.

Finalists



Jiawei Wang

Concerto Division

Jiawei started playing piano at the age of five. Since then, he has become an ARCT level performer under the guidance of teacher Winnie He. He has attended numerous competitions, concerts, and even had the opportunity to play at New York's Carnegie Hall. Outside of music, he is an avid debater.



June Meiling Zhou

Concerto Division & Junior Division B

JuneMeiling Zhou 15 years old and She currently attends BASIS International School Shenzhen. started her piano lessons at the age of four and a half and studied piano under the tutelage of educator and pianist Professor Linying Zhu at the age of eight and a half. She started performing publicly at the age of five. June has performed piano solos and accompaniment in many benefit concerts and cultural events. She is also one of the main actors in the musical "Refugee Children's Way to Home". She has taken a great many master classes, both domestic and abroad, and has been well received by the masters. participated in domestic and international piano competitions with excellent results, and received invitations to perform at Carnegie Weill Hall and Salzburg Mozart Hall. She is a junior member of the Global Outstanding Chinese Artists Association.



Ye An

Concerto Division & Junior Division D

Ye An is from Shanghai, China and began his piano studies at age five. He began to perform in public soon after and is currently studying with Professor Christopher Zhong at the Music Middle School affiliated with the Shanghai Conservatory of Music (Elementary Department). He has won first place with grand prize junior class of St.Petersburg International Music Competition , first place of 2022 Chopin International Children's Piano Competition, China Division (Professional Group 1) , first place of 2022 SAE International Children's Piano Competition , China Division (Group PA1) , Chinese Works Award of 2022 Magnolia International Music Festival Piano Competition , first prize of 2021 US Federal Piano competition in Asia Pacific region (Group 5) .



Melanie Xia

Concerto Division & Junior Division C

She had participated in a few competitions, which have made an impact in her life. Melanie had won the first prize in Elite competition in 2018 and she got to perform in Carnegie Hall New York. She is looking forward to the competitions and performances to come that she could participate in to continue her musical journey.

Melanie also plays piano. She enjoys listening to music such as pop, classical, and more. She also loves reading and art related activities such as drawing, coming up with ideas for design, using texture art, and so on.

Music has made a huge impact in her life, and she is planning to keep it with her throughout her life. When she just started cello and piano, she didn't appreciate it at first and thought of it as something pointless, but over the years, her point of view of music has changed greatly, and she has learned to appreciate all the joy music has brought to her, and music has taught her to never give up.



Luke Qizhou Wang

Composition Division

He currently studies piano under Dr. Peichen Chen and composition under Dr. Roydon Tse in Toronto, starting in 2022. Prior to that, he had studied piano under Mr. Naiwei Huang, Ms. Na An, and Ms. Alysha Gauthier in Hong Kong. In 2022, he achieved certification for the ABRSM Level 4 Award in piano performance. He won the 1st prize in composition and the 1st prize in Piano-Canadian composers at the 2023 Kiwanis Music Festival. He received the 3rd prize in the 13th Zhongxin International Music Competition (China Region) in 2019 and the 3rd Prize in the Romantic Period Junior class at the St. Petersburg International Music Competition in the same year.



Grace Yueqing Wang

Composition Division

My name is Grace Yueqing Wang, 9-years old, was born in Guangzhou China. I love elegant and peaceful music and I like to play the piano to relax and calm myself down while experiencing a sad or unhappy feeling. It was an honor to win the first prize in the composition division of the preliminary round of the 10th GOCAA International Music Competition and advanced to be a finalist. I am very grateful to my teacher Ms. Vivi Shiwel Wu for her support and encouragement to me, and for her patient and strict and meticulous teaching when I participated in the competition, she always taught me that "Don't be afraid of difficulties!" That's what made me get here. Despite the difficulties encountered in the music-learning journey occasionally, I have always got the strength to confront and overcome them. Besides keeping a routine learning plan and practicing schedule becomes an important part of my life already. My motto is: Practice makes perfect.

AWARDS AND QUALIFICATION: Bronze Prize of the 9th GOCAA San Francisco International Music Competition Final (Amateur Children's Division A), Second prize of the 9th Macau International Art Open Competition Final Round, Third prize of the 13th Hong Kong International Piano Invitation Competition Final



Aisha Zihan Cao

Composition Division

I'm Aisha, almost 16 years old and I've been playing piano for at least I think 10 years. I'm now taking school in the Canadian International school of Guangzhou. Some of my hobbies are playing badminton and volleyball, reading sci-fiction novels, and also, playing piano definitely. Latest Awards & Experiences: In 2021, 1) participated in the Liszt Ferenc International Youth Classic Music Week Piano Competition and won the silver award in the Grade 8 division. 2) participated in the 8th GOCAA International piano Competition, Promoted to the finals and won the second prize in the composition division. In 2022: 1) participated in the chamber music ensemble program "Children's Fun and Fantasy Journey" on Guangzhou Radio and Television's 2022 Happy Spring Festival Gala. 2) Passed the ABRSM Grade 8 performance exam with Distinction. In 2023: 1) participated in the "One Where, Tong Yi He Xin Xi" on Guangzhou Radio and Television's 2023 Happy Spring Festival Gala. 2) Participated in the 9th Macau International Art Open Competition and won the gold medal of the Youth Group of Piano Four-hand Play. 3) Participated in the 13th Hong Kong International Piano invitational competition and won the first prize of the Intermediate Group of Four-hand Play, and then advanced to the final and won the second prize. 4) Participated in the national final of the 6th CGS International Culture and Art Festival of "Chase Charming Star" and won the championship of the saxophone/piano group.

Finalists



Van Trio

Chamber Music & Ensemble Division

Yolanda Zhang & Selena Yu & Curtis Wei

Van trio established in 2022
@cecilia and kevin music school
@Vancouver

Consists of 5 cmc national competition Winnies.
Curtis. Yolanda. Iris. Gabby. Selena.
Weekly rehearsal by teacher Rebecca

The repertoire ranges from Bach to the present.
These five children are both excellent in character and learning,
and are top students in their respective schools



Van String

Chamber Music & Ensemble Division

Curtis Wei & Emily Hua & Jessica Hua & Eric Tang & Alex Zhang
& Eliza Sun & Yolanda Zhang & Iris Zhu

VanString chamber music is a voluntary music ensemble. All the members come from the largest strings conservatory in Vancouver - Cecilia and Kevin Music Conservatory. All members have at least passed the performing level of Grade 10 from the prestigious Toronto Royal Conservatory of Music. In addition, over half of the members continued to achieve the ARCT level of performance.

VanString rehearse once a week at 8:30pm under the direction of teachers Kevin and Michael. The ensemble performs bi-weekly at senior homes and all communication and organization are done by the students alone.

VanString was founded in 2009. In these 14 years, there has not been a single rehearsal missed. With over 400 performances, they have made a great impact across Greater Vancouver and have performed for almost every senior home and hospital. They were also invited to perform at the 2012, 2013, 2014 etc. New Years Gala, the opening for the Golden Panda Film Festival, Phoenix Television's exclusive events, and other multiple large-scale functions.

Within the past 14 years, over 150 members from VanString have gone to pursue their post-secondary education; 2/3 of the members continued in American Ivy League Universities. The most essential outcome is that every single graduated member has brought their instruments to university, continuing to enrich their life with music.

Let us reach out our hands, to continually make the world a better place.

Support Us



Thank you for considering a gift to the GOCAA International Music Competition. Your contribution directly enables the GOCAA competition to provide unique opportunities for first-class pianists to enrich the community by bringing music to the performance hall and to local schools. Various giving opportunities are available to you: Annual Membership, Membership as a Gift, or a gift In Honor or In Memory of a friend or loved one. Corporations and foundations may visit the Corporate/Foundation Giving page for a list of annual and four-year giving opportunities.

GOCAA Music International Competition is a corporation that relies on contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations for funding. A wide variety of gift options are available, all of which may have potential tax benefits to the donor, but individuals should seek advice from their personal financial advisors before making a decision.

Friends of the GOCAA

This vital group of Friends consists of those who support the GOCAA Music International Competition with annual gifts and receive benefits and recognition as listed below. Benefits are effective throughout the GOCAA fiscal year: October-September 30th.

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Gold Club \$10,000–24,999

The above offer, plus a private performance by a GOCAA Artist in your home or business

Platinum Club \$25,000+

The above offer, plus acknowledgement from the stage before all performances



Donate to support us



Support Us



TYPES OF GIFTING

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Cash is a great way to contribute and may be 100% deductible. Gifts may be made by cash, check, or credit card, and given as a one-time donation, or pledged in installments over the course of a year.

Gifts of Securities

Stocks, mutual funds, bonds and other securities are welcome and may provide you with a considerable savings in capital-gain taxes.

Matching Gifts

More than one thousand companies match donations made by their employees to qualified charities. Contact your company's human resources department or corporate foundation for participation options. Matching gifts allow donors to double and sometimes triple the value of their gift to the GOCAA Foundation.

Other Property

A gift of tangible property to the GOCAA Foundation may result in a tax deduction for the donor. Gifts-in-kind are items such as works of art, equipment, furniture, antiques, real estate and similar non-monetary contributions.

Deferred Gifts and Bequests

Many individuals discover that they can make a substantial gift through a bequest provision, a life income gift or a trust. Including the GOCAA Foundation in your estate planning is an excellent way to insure that future generations will benefit from your generosity. Individuals should seek advice from their personal financial advisors before making a decision.





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