

5th Season
Musical Arts @San Francisco



2025 BAY PIANO FEST

AUGUST 3 — AUGUST 13, 2025
SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

Moments
from the
past



Welcome to Bay PianoFest 2025



Dear Bay PianoFest Family,

On behalf of the entire Bay PianoFest team, it is our distinct honor and heartfelt pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 Bay PianoFest, marking the fifth season of our growing and vibrant festival.

This milestone reflects not only a journey of artistic growth and innovation but also a continued commitment to fostering meaningful musical exchange and artistic excellence. We are thrilled to celebrate this special year with all of you — our esteemed faculty, dedicated participants, and cherished supporters, who make this festival such a meaningful and dynamic experience.

Since transitioning from an online format to an in-person festival at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in 2023, Bay PianoFest has flourished in an inspiring environment enriched by world-class facilities and a culture rooted in musical integrity. As we enter our fifth season, we look forward to another ten days of intensive learning, creativity, and collaboration—an immersive program designed to cultivate passion, refine artistry, and encourage innovation through shared experiences.

This year's schedule is thoughtfully curated to offer a rich and diverse range of musical opportunities. Participants will engage in private lessons, masterclasses, lectures, piano forums, student performances, and our always-popular conducting workshops, all led by a faculty of twelve distinguished artists and educators.

We are honored to welcome thirty-four young artists and twenty-six junior artists, each bringing unique perspectives and a shared love of music. Your presence enriches this community, and we look forward to the friendships, artistic growth, and inspiration that will emerge throughout the week.

We encourage you to take full advantage of all performances, forums, and artistic events. It is our sincere hope that these experiences deepen your musical understanding, spark new ideas, and support your continued development as artists.

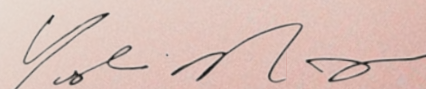
As we celebrate our fifth season, we would like to express my deepest gratitude to the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, our extraordinary faculty, staff, generous donors, volunteers, and all those whose support has shaped Bay PianoFest over the years. Your belief in our mission has made this journey possible and continues to sustain our growth.

Once again, we—together with the entire Bay PianoFest team—extend our warmest welcome to you. May the 2025 Bay PianoFest be a source of inspiration, personal growth, and joyful memories that will stay with you long after the final note is played.

We are excited to witness your performances and the music you will bring to life.

Welcome to our 5th season!
With sincere gratitude,


Dr. Jingze Sarah Gao
Executive Director


Prof. Yoshikazu Nagai
Artistic Director

CALENDAR OF EVENTS & CLASS

Sunday Day 1 (8/3)	Monday Day 2 (8/4)	Tuesday Day 3 (8/5)	Wednesday Day 4 (8/6)		Thursday Day 5 (8/7)
	9:00–12:45 PM Conducting Workshop A/B/C (B101)	9:00–12:45 PM Conducting Workshop D/E/F (B101)	9:00–12:45 PM Conducting Workshop A/B/C (B101)	9:00–1:00 PM Young Artists Competition (Concert Hall)	9:30-12:30PM Young Artists Competition (Concert Hall)
	2:00-4:00 PM Yoshikazu Nagai Masterclass (CHA)	2:00-4:00 PM Douglas Humphreys Masterclass (CHA)	2:00-4:00 PM Alexander Korsantia Masterclass (CHA)	2:00-4:00 PM Young Artists Competition (Concert Hall)	2:00-4:00 PM Artists Competition (Concert Hall)
4:00 PM Orientation (CHA)	4:15-6:00 PM Piano Forum (CHA)	4:00-6:00 PM Jeehae Ahn Masterclass (CHA)		4:00-6:00 PM Young Artists Competition (Concert Hall)	5:30-6:30 PM Competition Award Ceremony (Concert Hall)
6:00-7:00 PM Concert Series: Opening Ceremony 2024 SFIPC Winner's Recital Yi-Chen Feng (BOR)		7:00-9:00 PM Concert Series: Young Artists Concert (BOR)			

*CHA= Cha Chi Ming Hall (200 Van Ness)

*BOR= Barbro Osher Recital Hall (200 Van Ness)

*RH= Recital Hall (50 Oak)

*CH= Caroline Hume Concert Hall (50 Oak)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS & CLASS

Friday Day 6 (8/8)	Saturday Day 7 (8/9)	Sunday Day 8 (8/10)	Monday Day 9 (8/11)	Tuesday Day 10 (8/12)	Wednesday Day 11 (8/13)
9:00–12:45 PM Conducting Workshop D/E/F (B101)	9:00–12:45 PM Conducting Workshop A/B/C (B101)	9:00–12:45 PM Conducting Workshop D/E/F (B101)	10:00–12:00PM Alan Chow Masterclass (CHA)	10:00–12:00PM Alvin Chow Masterclass (CHA)	9:00–10:00 am Conducting Project (CHA)
2:00-4:00 PM Sharon Mann Masterclass (CHA)	2:00-4:00 PM Piano Forum (CHA)	2:00-4:00 PM Enrico Elisi Masterclass (CHA)	2:00-4:00 PM Boris Berman Masterclass (CHA)	2:00-4:00 PM Boris Berman Masterclass (CHA)	12:30 PM Festival Finale Celebration (50 Oak C Floor)
4:00-6:00 PM Rebecca Penneys Masterclass (CHA)	4:30-6:00 PM Concert Series: Lowenthal Recital (Concert Hall)	4:00-6:00 PM Jerome Lowenthal Masterclass (CHA)	4:15-6:00 PM Piano Forum (CHA)	4:00-6:00 PM HieYon Choi Masterclass (CHA)	2:00-4:00 PM Piano Forum (CHA)
7:00-9:00 PM Concert Series: Junior Artists Concert (BOR)		7:00-9:00 PM Concert Series: Junior Artists Concert (BOR)		7:00-9:00 PM Concert Series: Young Artists Concert (BOR)	4:30 PM Concert Series Faculty Concert 5 th Anniversary Concert (BOR)



Jingze Sarah Gao

Founder / Executive Director, Bay PianoFest

As a pianist, music educator, and arts administrator, **Jingze Sarah Gao** has extensive experience performing, teaching, and managing arts programs. She has earned critical acclaim as a solo pianist, and chamber musician, as well as an orchestral pianist. Dr. Gao was a top prize winner in numerous national and international piano competitions and also has been invited to WUSF Live Radio for interviews and performances as their young resident artist. She has gained recognition from the media and music critics for her performance. In the Murcia Regional News, they described her Schubert performance as "unforgettable" and praised her rendition of Schubert's "The Wanderer" as "exquisite" and "magnificent".

In recent years, Dr. Gao has actively performed recitals and chamber music concerts throughout the U.S., Europe, and Asia. She is in frequent demand as an orchestral pianist working with renowned conductors such as Ken-David Masur, Hugh Wolff, and Jeffrey Kahane. Her music festival performances include Bay PianoFest, San Francisco International Piano Competition, Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival, Amalfi Music & Arts Festival, and Beijing Internationally Music Festival.

Dr. Gao received a highly sought-after Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Southern California, working with Jeffrey Kahane, with a minor in instrumental conducting, Music Teaching and learning, and arts leadership. She pursued her Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the New England Conservatory of Music, where she studied with Gabriel Chodos and graduated with Dean's List honors. She also earned a Master of Music and Professional Studies Diploma in Piano Performance from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where she studied with Garrick Ohlsson and Yoshikazu Nagai.

In addition to her extensive academic background, Dr. Gao has demonstrated leadership potential in the music industry. With experience in music education, Dr. Gao worked as a Piano Department Assistant at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Currently, she is the President of Artcial Music Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and the Founder and Artistic Director of the San Francisco International Piano Competition and Bay PianoFest, where she creatively leads the festival and competition.

Dr. Gao is also an active piano teacher with experience teaching over 10 years. Many of her students received local piano competitions awards, were selected by young artist music festivals, and were admitted to the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and Manhattan Conservatory of Music. Her students are top prize winners of national and international competitions including the Charleston International Piano Competition, US New Star International Piano Competition, Golden Classical Piano Competition, America Protégé Piano Competition, and US Open Music Competition.

She teaches regularly during the summers at The Concerto Camp in Vienna, where she serves on faculty as a concerto coach. Throughout her career, Dr. Gao has shown a deep commitment to music education and the arts, inspiring students and fellow musicians to pursue excellence and realize their full potential.



Yoshikazu Nagai

San Francisco Conservatory of Music
Artistic Director, Bay PianoFest

Praised by audiences and critics alike for his fresh interpretations and dramatic presentation style, **Yoshikazu Nagai** has performed as soloist and chamber musician throughout Asia, Europe, and America in such venues as Beijing's National Centre for the Performing Arts, Shanghai Concert Hall in China, National Concert Hall and Recital Hall in Taiwan, Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall in Canada, Carnegie Recital Hall and Merkin Concert Hall in New York, Kennedy Center's Terrace Theatre, The National Gallery and Phillips Collection in Washington D.C., and Seattle's Benaroya Hall.

His schedule in recent seasons includes recitals in Naples, Seoul, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore, Beijing, Cincinnati, Chicago, San Francisco, and in collaborations with the Ives Quartet, violinists Robert Mann, Anthony Marwood and with orchestras across the country.

Born in Germany and raised in the United States, Mr. Nagai studied with John Perry at Rice University, Paul Schenly and Sergei Babayan at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he was awarded the Malvina Podis Prize in Piano upon graduation, and Duane Hulbert at the University of Puget Sound with whom he recorded the Glasunov Fantasie for Two Pianos, Op. 104. He has been recognized by the National Foundation for Advancements in the Arts for excellence in teaching and his students are top prizewinners of national and international competitions including the Gina Bachauer, International Piano Competition of Lyon (France), Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli International Piano Competition, Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition, Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Piano Competition, Hilton Head, Cleveland International Piano Competition for Young Artists, Music Teacher's National Association Piano Competition, New York International Piano Competition, Nina Wideman, International Russian Music, Lennox Young Artists, Bösendorfer and Yamaha USASU, Heida Hermanns, International E-Piano Competitions, Gilmore Young Artists Award, and Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition.

Currently Professor of Piano and Chamber Music, he is chair of the piano department at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Mr. Nagai teaches regularly during the summers at the Amalfi Coast Music Festival in Italy as faculty chair, and at "Art of Piano" at SFCM (formerly at Cincinnati Conservatory). He has also been faculty at Seoul National University International Piano Academy in South Korea, Shanghai and Beijing International Piano Festivals in China, Maestro International Piano Festival in Taiwan, Brancaleoni Festival in Italy, Chautauqua, Summit Festivals in New York, Pianofest in the Hamptons, PianoTexas and Chicago International Piano Festivals, South Eastern Piano Festival in South Carolina, Colburn Academy and Montecito International Music Festival in California, JPA Music Festival, Eastern Music Festival in North Carolina, and RPPF in Florida. Mr. Nagai was also recent faculty member at Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University as Visiting Professor of Piano, and former faculty at the Interlochen Arts Academy.

This is Mr. Nagai's fifth season serving as faculty and is Artistic Director to Bay PianoFest (formerly Artcial International Piano Festival).



Boris Berman

*Yale University - Yale School of Music
Distinguished Artist Faculty, Bay PianoFest*

Boris Berman is regularly performing in more than fifty countries on six continents. His highly acclaimed performances have included appearances with many of the world's foremost orchestras, such as the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Gewandhaus Orchestra, The Philharmonia (London), the Toronto Symphony, Israel Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, Houston Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, St. Petersburg Philharmonic, and the Royal Scottish Orchestra.

Born in Moscow, Berman studied at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory with the distinguished pianist Lev Oborin. While in the Soviet Union, he enjoyed a flourishing concert career. In 1973, he emigrated to Israel, where he quickly established himself as one of the country's most sought-after keyboard performers. His international career soon expanded across Europe, North America, and beyond. He currently resides in New Haven, USA.

A teacher of international stature, Berman is the head of the Piano Department at the Yale School of Music and has played a major role in mentoring many leading young pianists. He regularly gives master classes around the world and has taught in numerous renowned institutions. His work in education has been recognized with honorary professorships from the Shanghai Conservatory, the Royal Danish Conservatory in Copenhagen, and the China Conservatory in Beijing. He also frequently serves on the juries of international competitions, including the Leeds, Clara Haskil, Artur Schnabel, and Queen Elisabeth competitions.

A Grammy nominee, Mr. Berman has recorded extensively. He was the first pianist to record the complete solo piano works by Sergei Prokofiev, earning international acclaim. He has also recorded the complete piano works of Alfred Schnittke, the complete sonatas of Alexander Scriabin, and important works by Mozart, Weber, Schumann, Brahms, Franck, Shostakovich, Debussy, Stravinsky, Berio, Cage, and Joplin. His recordings, released on labels such as Chandos, Naxos, and Le Palais des Dégustateurs, are praised for both repertoire and interpretation. Recent releases include Brahms's Klavierstücke and Variations and a two-disc retrospective of works by Ukrainian composer Valentyn Silvestrov.

Boris Berman is also a noted author. His book *Notes from the Pianist's Bench* (Yale University Press, 2000) addresses fundamental issues of technique and interpretation and has been translated into several languages. A revised multimedia edition was released in 2017, featuring audio and video enhancements. His second book, *Prokofiev's Piano Sonatas: A Guide for the Listener and the Performer* (Yale, 2008), combines analysis, historical context, and performance insight. Berman also served as editor of the new critical edition of Prokofiev's piano sonatas, published by Shanghai Music Publishing House.

In the 2024–25 season, Boris Berman is scheduled to perform and teach in France, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Spain, The Netherlands, and the USA.

Alvin Chow

*Oberlin College and Conservatory
Distinguished Artist Faculty, Bay PianoFest*

Alvin Chow has appeared throughout North America and in Asia as an orchestral soloist and recitalist. In addition, he has performed extensively in duo-piano recitals with his wife, Angela Cheng, and his twin brother, Alan. A native of Miami, Florida, he graduated summa cum laude and co-valedictorian at the University of Maryland, where he was a student of Nelita True. Chow received the Victor Herbert Prize in Piano upon graduation from the Juilliard School, where he studied with Sascha Gorodnitzki, and held the Joseph Battista Memorial Scholarship at Indiana University as a student of Menahem Pressler.

Chow was the first Fulbright College Visiting Artist in Piano at the University of Arkansas during 1987-88. He later taught at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Since 1999, he has been a member of the artist faculty at Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where he is currently chair of the Piano Department and the Ruth Strickland Gardner Professor of Music. Chow has performed in major concert halls including the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; Orchestra Hall in Chicago; Weill and Steinway Halls in New York City; and the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. He has presented as recitalist in Hong Kong, Los Angeles, Seattle, Denver, Detroit, and Miami, and has appeared as soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra, Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Alabama Symphony Orchestra, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Pan-Asia Symphony in Hong Kong, and the Mozarteum Orchestra in Salzburg, among others.



Alan Chow

*Eastman School of Music
Distinguished Artist Faculty, Bay PianoFest*

A Steinway Artist, **Alan Chow** has performed to critical acclaim in recital and in concert in such major venues as New York's Lincoln Center and Merkin Hall and Chicago's Symphony Center and Ravinia and with orchestra in the United States and Asia, included concerto performances with the National, Pan Asian, Utah, Oakland, Kansas City, and Omaha Symphonies and the Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Tulsa Philharmonics. Chow won First Prize at the Concert Artists Guild International Competition and the Silver Medal and Audience Favorite Prize at the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition and was formerly a member of the artist faculty at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music. As a chamber musician, he has collaborated with the America, Pacifica, and Miami String quartets and been a guest artist at numerous festivals. Chow regularly tours Asia with performances in Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, and China, where he also presented master classes and lectures at major conservatories. In addition, he appears in recital in the Cheng-Chow Trio with pianist Angela Cheng and his twin brother Alvin.

Chow has given master classes throughout North America and Asia at conservatories, universities, and summer festivals and is active as a juror for many piano competitions. He has served as a guest professor at the Central Conservatory in Beijing, honored visiting professor at the Shenyang Conservatory, and Visiting Associate Professor at Oberlin Conservatory. His former and current students have been winners in international piano competitions. Chow's awards also include First Prize in the UCLA and Palm Beach Invitational International piano competitions, and he was a prizewinner in the William Kapell International Piano Competition.





HieYon Choi

*Peabody Institute – Johns Hopkins University
Distinguished Artist Faculty, Bay PianoFest*

One of the most sought-after pianists of her generation, South Korean pianist **HieYon Choi** first appeared on the international piano music scene when she won prizes at high-profile competitions such as Kapell, Epinal, Busoni and Viotti.

HieYon Choi has been since performing with prestigious orchestras of Europe, US and Korea such as das Rundfunkorchester Berlin, the National Symphony Orchestra (Washington DC), the Northern Sinfonia, the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Korean Broadcast Symphony Orchestra and appears as a soloist in festivals and concert series.

Alongside the canon of the classical piano literature such as Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, and Debussy, music of 20th & 21st forms another important part of Choi's career. A strong advocate of the new music, she was the inaugural Artist-in-Residence of Tong-Yeong International Music festival. She performed works of Olivier Messiaen, György Kurtag, Sofia Gubaidulina, York Höller, Unsuk Chin, Sukki Kang a. o. with the Seoul Philharmonic. HieYon is the founder of Ensemble Academy at Seoul National University where she led series of contemporary music projects such as <Sound of Universe>, <Liberation>, and <TripleX>, the latest a triple international exchange to overcome Covid pandemic.

In 1999 Choi joined the piano faculty at the Seoul National University. Since then, she has been giving numerous master classes in Korea as well as abroad; the Guildhall School in London, Ecole normale in Paris, the Hochschule Freiburg, Karlsruhe, Düsseldorf in Germany, in Helsinki, in Hong-Kong, China, in New York, Cincinnati, Michigan, Illinois, Chicago and summer festivals in Italy. Choi also serves as a jury member or the jury president at international competitions such as Ishikawa, Epinal, Orléans, Pozzoli and Maj Lind.

Since 2015 Choi has been recording with producer Martin Sauer all 32 Beethoven piano sonatas at Teldex Studio Berlin. Her first Beethoven album was released in 2018 by Decca Korea and highly noted by the German piano magazine <Piano News>. Her second album "The Great Sonatas" saw its release in 2021 and a year before did her Debussy Douze Etudes. Her other recordings include F. Liszt Six Grand Etudes on Paganini, Isang Yun 5 Stücke, Chopin Etudes Op. 10 & Op. 25. Choi has been appearing and performing in TV and radio channels in Korea, US, Italy, Switzerland, Sweden, and Germany.

Born in Incheon, South Korea, Choi gave her debut concert at the age of 6 with the Incheon Philharmonic Orchestra. She won all four most coveted competitions in Korea (Dong-A, Choong-Ang, Korea Times, Ehwa-KyungHyang) and moved to Germany at the age of 18. HieYon studied with Klaus Hellwig, the late Hans Leygraf at Hochschule der Künste Berlin, and with the late György Sebök at Indiana University.

Enrico Elisi

Texas Christian University

Distinguished Artist Faculty, Bay PianoFest

Enrico Elisi, a laureate of the Oporto International Competition (Portugal) and the Premio Venezia (Italy), has earned international recognition for his performances across four continents. Praised for his “mastery of elegance, refinement, and fantasy” (La Nueva España) and “remarkable sensitivity, imagination, and polish” (Baltimore Sun), he has given recitals throughout Europe at venues such as the Bemberg Museum in Toulouse (France), Centro del Carmen in Valencia (Spain), Dante Society in Bonn, Wolfsburg Castle, and Kiel Universität’s Bach-Saal (Germany), Cyril and Methodius Foundation in Piestany (Slovakia).



Audiences in his native Italy heard him at historic venues such as La Fenice Theatre (Venice), Dante’s Church, the Hall of the Five Hundred in the Medici-owned Palazzo Vecchio and Sala del Buonumore (Florence), the Pavarotti-Freni Opera House (Modena), the Bibiena Theatre and Palazzo Guerrerri-Gonzaga (Mantua), the Sala dei Giganti (Padua), the Sala degli Ostaggi mi(Crema), the Teatro Comunale, the Archaeological Museum, and the Sala Bossi (Bologna), as well as the Sant’Anna dei Lombardi Church (Naples). In Asia, he performed to acclaim in Japan, South Korea (IBK Hall, Seoul), China (Beijing Steinway Hall), Taiwan, Indonesia, Singapore, and in the Americas, in Peru (Centro Cultural de España, Lima), Canada (Banff Centre) and at notable venues in the United States, including the National Gallery of Art, the Italian Embassy in Washington, DC, the New York Public and Morgan Libraries, Carnegie Hall’s Weill Hall, and the Chopin Society in San Francisco.

A frequent guest at music festivals worldwide, Elisi performed and conducted masterclasses at Cincinnati’s “Art of the Piano,” Interlochen Center for the Arts, Texas State, Ariciál, RPPF, and the Chautauqua Institution in the USA; VIPA Valencia in Spain; Todi Music Masters, Conero and Amalfi Coast Festivals in Italy; Borromeo in Switzerland; The Thinking Pianist in England; and the Ameri-China Foundation and Sichuan International Piano Festival in China. In 2024, he will be on the faculty at the Vancouver Piano Sessions.

Dr. Elisi has conducted workshops for the Pinerolo Accademia di Musica, Royal College of Music, and Royal Northern College and was a Yellowbarn Festival Artist-in-Residence. He has taught masterclasses at prestigious institutions across the United States, Canada, Peru, Denmark, Italy, England, Turkey, Taiwan, China, Singapore, Indonesia, Japan, and Korea. Dr. Elisi holds the Harold D. and Imogene Herndon Endowed Professorship of Music in Piano at Texas Christian University. Throughout his distinguished teaching career, he has taught at the University of Toronto (which has recognized him with the Teaching Award), the Eastman School, Penn State University, and UNLV. He was also a visiting professor at Hanyang University and a Leading Scholar at Ewha Womans University (Korea). His students have won prizes and pursued successful careers; many hold teaching posts.

Elisi’s mentors include Leon Fleisher, Lazar Berman, Alexander Lonquich, Franco Scala, Boris Petrushansky, and Giuseppe Fricelli. His musical education flourished at the Conservatories of Bologna and Florence, the International Piano Academy of Imola, the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, and the Taos and Ravinia Festivals, where he delved into chamber music with Robert McDonald, Menahem Pressler, Gilbert Kalish, and Claude Frank. He became a citizen of the United States of America in 2012 and is a Steinway Artist.



Douglas Humpherys

Eastman School of Music

Distinguished Artist Faculty, Bay PianoFest

Since winning the gold medal at the first Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition, **Douglas Humpherys'** concert career has spanned four decades across four continents. During recent years, he has concertized in many of the major cities of Asia. A frequent guest artist in Beijing, he has performed at the National Center for the Performing Arts, the Beijing Concert Hall, and the Forbidden City Concert Hall. He has presented concerts and lecture-recitals throughout the Chinese conservatory and university system, including the Central, Shanghai, China, Wuhan, Shenyang, Guangzhou, Chengdu, XiAn

DaLian, and XiaMen Conservatories, as well as Beijing, Tsinghua, Renmin Universities, and the Shenzhen School of the Arts. In 2002 he made his Korean debut in Seoul at the Kumho Art Hall, and during a 2007 tour of Taiwan, he performed in the cities of Taipei, Tainan, and Kaohsiung.

Currently listed on the Artists Roster of Steinway and Sons, Mr. Humpherys often performs in Europe, with solo concerts in Moscow, Novgorod, Berlin, Hamburg, Prague, Venice, and Dublin, with additional engagements in Germany, Spain, the Czech Republic, Montenegro, and Serbia. He has performed throughout the United States and Canada at numerous universities and festivals. Recently, he was a guest artist with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and performed on the DiMenna Center Piano Series in New York City. In 2008 and 2012, he concertized and taught in Argentina with Teachers del Norte-Pianists del Sur, a project sponsored in part by the United States Embassy in Buenos Aires.

Mr. Humpherys completed graduate degrees at the Juilliard School (MM) and the Eastman School of Music (DMA), where he served for twenty years as Chair of the Piano Department, and is currently Professor of Piano. During his student days he studied with Nelita True, Martin Canin, and Robert Smith.

He has taught hundreds of master classes at universities and conservatories including the Central Music School of the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory, most of the major conservatories in China, the Hong Kong Academy of the Performing Arts, the Korean National University of the Arts, National Taiwan Normal University, and the Royal Irish Academy of Music. He frequently teaches and concertizes at Summer Piano Festivals, most recently including the Bowdoin International Music Festival, the Beijing International Piano Festival, the Shanghai International Piano Festival and Institute, the Gijon International Piano Festival in Spain, the Wallace International Piano Festival in New Zealand, the Philadelphia Young Pianists Academy, the Washington DC International Piano Festival, the Interlochen Piano Festival, the Miami Music Festival, the Seattle Piano Institute, the Atlantic Music Festival, the North Coast International Piano Festival in California, and the Northern Lights Music Festival.

Mr. Humpherys became the Artistic Director of the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition in 2013, and has also adjudicated the Cleveland International Piano Competition, the Rachmaninoff International Young Artists' Piano Competition in Novgorod, Russia, the Ricardo Viñes International Piano Competition in Spain, the 1st Korea International Competition for Young Artists, the PTNA National Piano Competition in Tokyo, and the Hilton Head International Piano Competition.

Alexander Korsantia

*New England Conservatory of Music
Distinguished Artist Faculty, Bay PianoFest*



Dubbed “a major artist” by the Miami Herald and a “quiet maverick” by the Daily Telegraph, pianist **Alexander Korsantia** has been praised for the “clarity of his technique, richly varied tone and dynamic phrasing” (Baltimore Sun), and a “piano technique where difficulties simply do not exist” (Calgary Sun). The Boston Globe found his interpretation of his signature piece, Pictures at an Exhibition, to be “a performance that could annihilate all others one has heard.” And the Birmingham Post wrote: “his intensely responsive reading was shot through with a vein of constant fantasy, whether musing or mercurial.”

Ever since winning Gold Medal at the Artur Rubinstein Piano Master Competition and the First Prize at the Sidney International Piano Competition, Korsantia’s career has taken him to many of the world’s major concert halls, collaborating with renowned artists such as Vadim Repin, Christoph Eschenbach, Gianandrea Noseda, Valery Gergiev, Paavo Järvi, Dan Ettinger and Carlos Prieto with such orchestras as the Chicago Symphony, Kirov Orchestra, RAI Orchestra in Turin, The City of Birmingham Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, Israel Philharmonic and the Far Cry.

In the current and coming seasons Mr. Korsantia performs Prokofiev’s Third Concerto with Boston Philharmonic, Akron Symphony and Xiamen Philharmonic, Rachmaninoff’s Third with Israel Symphony, Prokofiev’s Second with Stuttgart Philharmoniker and Telavi Festival in Georgia, Beethoven’s Fourth with Israel Philharmonic and Haifa Symphony, Chopin Second with Jerusalem Symphony, Israel Chamber Orchestra and Ingolstadt Chamber Orchestra. With The Far Cry chamber group he performed Galina Ustvol’skaya’s Piano Concerto in Boston and Tbilisi, Georgia.

Mr. Korsantia’s past engagements include appearances with the Huntsville, Pacific, Louisville, Bogota, San Juan, Jerusalem, Oregon, Vancouver, Omaha, New Orleans, Elgin, Mannheim, Tokyo, Louisiana, Oslo, Malaga and Israel symphony orchestras; Georgian Sinfonietta; Ingolstadt and Israel chamber orchestras; Jerusalem Camerata; Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse; Polish Radio Orchestra; and Orquesta Sinfonica Nacional in Mexico City, among others. He has been heard in the Piano Jacobins concert series in Toulouse; in Warsaw, Boston, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Vancouver, Calgary, San Francisco, Lodz; with the White Nights Festival in St. Petersburg; at the Tanglewood, Newport, Stresa, Gilmore, and Verbier festivals and music series, performing solo recitals and collaborating with musicians such as Vadim Repin, Miriam Fried, Kim Kashkashian, Sergei Nakariakov and the Stradivari Quartet among others. Bel Air Music and Piano Classics are among the recording labels Mr. Korsantia has worked with.

Born in Tbilisi, Georgia, Alexander Korsantia began his musical studies at an early age moving with his family to the United States in 1991. In 1999, he was awarded one of the most prestigious national awards, the Order of Honor, bestowed on him by then-President Eduard Shevardnadze. He is a recipient of the Golden Wing award (2015) and Georgia’s National State Prize (1997). Korsantia resides in Boston where he is a Professor of Piano on the faculty of the New England Conservatory. Mr. Korsantia is the artistic adviser of the annual music festival “From Easter to Ascension” in Georgia.

Jerome Lowenthal

The Juilliard School

Distinguished Artist Faculty, Bay PianoFest



Jerome Lowenthal, born in 1932, continues to fascinate audiences, who find in his playing a youthful intensity and an eloquence born of life experience. He is a virtuoso of the fingers and the emotions.

Mr. Lowenthal studied in his native Philadelphia with Olga Samaroff-Stokowski, in New York with William Kapell and Edward Steuermann, and in Paris with Alfred Cortot, meanwhile traveling annually to Los Angeles for coachings with Artur Schnabel. After winning prizes in three international competitions (Bolzano, Darmstadt, and Brussels), he moved to Jerusalem where, for three years, he played, taught, and lectured.

Returning to America, he made his debut with the New York Philharmonic playing Bartok Concerto No. 2 in 1963. Since then, he has performed more or less everywhere, from the Aleutians to Zagreb. Conductors with whom he has appeared as soloist include Barenboim, Ozawa, Tilson Thomas, Temirkanov, and Slatkin, as well as such giants of the past as Leonard Bernstein, Eugene Ormandy, Pierre Monteux, and Leopold Stokowski.

In chamber music, he has participated in innumerable festivals and has performed piano duets with his late wife Ronit Amir and his daughter Carmel Lowenthal. He has adjudicated in most of the world's great piano competitions, including Leeds, Cliburn, Rubinstein, Horowitz, Cleveland, Young Concert Artists, and Beijing.

His recorded repertoire is vast and includes the complete *Annees de Pelerinage* of Liszt, the complete concerti of Tchaikovsky, the Beethoven Fourth Concerto with eleven different cadenzas, the Gershwin Concerto in F and Rhapsody in Blue, Ned Rorem's Concerto No. 3 (written for him), Liszt Concerti, and solo discs of the music of George Rochberg and Christian Sinding, as well as two-piano and four-hand music (Messiaen, Debussy, Rzewski and Corigliano) with his partner, Ursula Oppens.

Teaching, too, is an essential part of Mr. Lowenthal's life. Last year he completed fifty summers at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara. This year is his thirtieth on the faculty of The Juilliard School, and he regularly joins the summer festivals of Pianofest in the Hamptons, Beijing (BIMFA), Perugia, Amalfi, Uelzen, Tampa (Rebecca Penneys), and Northern Colorado. He has worked with an extraordinary number of gifted pianists, whom he encourages to understand the music they play in a wide aesthetic and cultural perspective and to project it with the freedom which that perspective allows.



Larry Livingston

*University of Southern California
Distinguished Artist Faculty, Bay PianoFest*

*Former Vice president of the New England
Conservatory of Music and Rice University*

Larry Livingston is a distinguished conductor, educator, administrator, and acclaimed motivational speaker. He is the founding Music Director of the Illinois Chamber Orchestra and has appeared with leading ensembles such as the Houston Symphony and the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Green Umbrella Series.

Internationally, he has conducted at the Festival de Musique in Evian, France, with orchestras including the Stockholm Wind Orchestra and the Leopoldinum Chamber Orchestra, as well as the Chopin Academy and Wroclaw Philharmonic in Poland. Livingston has led ensembles across Europe, Asia, and Australia, including the Pan Pacific Festival Orchestras in Sydney, the International Jazz Festival in Rome, and electro-acoustic concerts in Tokyo with Yamaha International. He has worked with a wide range of soloists, including Keiko Abe, Itzhak Perlman, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Yehudi Menuhin, and Time for Three. His commitment to contemporary music is evidenced by premieres and recordings of works by Mario Davidovsky, Pauline Oliveros, Roger Reynolds, and others.

He has conducted prominent youth and university ensembles such as the American Youth Symphony, the USC Thornton Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, and the USC Thornton Contemporary Music Ensemble in Berlin. He also served on the jury of the Besançon International Conducting Competition and was principal juror for the Winnipeg Symphony International Conducting Symposium.

Livingston has made extensive contributions to music education, serving for two decades in the University of Michigan All-State Program at Interlochen and as Conductor of the Idyllwild Arts Festival Orchestra since 1989. He is Music Director of Music for All's National Honor Orchestra and has led All-State Ensembles in over a dozen U.S. states, including Texas on eleven occasions. He frequently tours Eastern Europe, particularly Poland, where his performances have received enthusiastic critical acclaim. A graduate of the University of Michigan, he studied conducting with Laurence Livingston, Elizabeth Green, and William Revelli, and pursued doctoral work at UC San Diego. He has held major academic leadership roles as Vice President and Music Director of the New England Conservatory, Dean of the Shepherd School at Rice University, and Dean of USC's Thornton School of Music (1986–2002), where he now chairs the Conducting Department.

Mr. Livingston has raised over \$100 million in support of music education and was the first music administrator accepted into the Harvard Executive Education Program. His honors include the University of Michigan's Hall of Fame Award, the Life in the Arts Award from Idyllwild Arts, and USC's Outstanding Teacher Award. As Director of Educational Initiatives for Guitar Center (2008–2015), he launched the national program ALL IN. At the request of Quincy Jones, he currently chairs the Education Committee of the Quincy Jones Musiq Consortium and serves as a consultant to the Conn-Selmer Corporation.

Sharon Mann

*San Francisco Conservatory of Music
Distinguished Artist Faculty, Bay PianoFest*

Sharon Mann, D.M., is a Professor of Piano at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. A respected soloist and ensembleist, Dr. Mann is widely acclaimed for her penetrating interpretations of Bach's keyboard music.

Her recording of the Six Partitas has recently been re-released by Cappella Records. She is also an inspiring teacher and lecturer, presenting master classes widely in this country and abroad.



Dr. Mann has served on the faculties of the Itzhak Perlman Music Program, the Bowdoin International Music Festival, the California Summer Music Festival, St. Olof College, and Mills College. Appointed by the Governor of Ohio, she served as Artistic Director of a concert series held at the Governor's Mansion. She also co-produced Sommermusikwochen, an annual summer festival in Switzerland.

An avid collaborator, Sharon Mann holds this country's first doctorate in piano/chamber music and has performed with such artists as Alain Marion, Michael Grebanier, Elaine Skorodin-Fuhrmann, and the Cavani String Quartet. Dr. Mann holds degrees from The Juilliard School, Stanford University, and Northwestern University. She received her early training with Rudolph Ganz and Isador Buchhalter of Chicago, and later at the Eastman School, The Juilliard School, Northwestern and Stanford University.

Dr. Mann taught in Birklehof, Germany in 2009 and performed and gave master classes at several conservatories in China in 2010. Her recent master classes were in Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Utah, California, Greece and China. In summer 2012, Mann taught at the Bowdoin International Music Festival, and she joined the faculty of Siena Piano Festival in Siena, Italy, 2013.



Rebecca Penneys

*Eastman School of Music
Distinguished Artist Faculty, Bay PianoFest*

Steinway Artist **Rebecca Penneys** is a recitalist, chamber musician, orchestral soloist, educator, and adjudicator. For six decades she has been hailed as a pianist of prodigious talent. Rebecca Penneys is an internationally celebrated pianist, pedagogue, and artistic director who has performed throughout the USA, East Asia, Australia, New Zealand, South America, Western and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Canada.

Known for her daredevil technique, charismatic stage presence, and unique interpretive voice, she is in high demand as a soloist, chamber musician, guest artist, keynote speaker, and teacher. Her students have won major international competitions and hold teaching positions on every continent.

Since 1980, Rebecca has served as Professor of Piano at the Eastman School of Music, where she teaches a diverse class of international students. She is also Artist-in-Residence at St. Petersburg College, a role created for her in 2001. In 1999, she founded the Salon Chamber Music Series, a five-concert chamber music series, and in 2009, she launched the Eastman Piano Series at the Summit, a popular young artist concert series.

In 2013, Rebecca established the Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival (RPPF), a tuition-free summer program for pianists aged 18-29, at the University of South Florida in Tampa. The festival includes the RPPF Satellite Series, which promotes festival students in concerts during in the summer and academic year. In 2025, RPPF received over 250 applications from 25 countries. It hosted 40 students with a 23 member faculty for three weeks. The RPPF mission is to promote core educational values and artistic vision for piano worldwide.

Rebecca spent 34 consecutive summers at the Chautauqua Institution, beginning in 1978 when she launched their chamber music program. She was Chair of the Piano Department from 1985 to 2012 and pianist of the New Arts Trio, which was Trio-in-Residence from 1978 to 2012. The Penneys Garden (2008) and the Piano Lovers Patio honor her contributions to Chautauqua.

She made her recital debut at age 9 and performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at 11. At 17, she won the Special Critics' Prize at the Seventh International Chopin Competition in Warsaw—an award created for her. She also received top honors at the Vianna da Motta (1970) and Paloma O'Shea (1975) competitions and made her New York debut in Alice Tully Hall in 1972. Between 1974 and 2009, she traveled internationally for concerts and masterclasses, and her New Arts Trio twice received the Naumburg Award for Chamber Music.

Rebecca studied with legendary artists such as Rosina Lhevinne, Artur Rubinstein, Menahem Pressler, and Gyorgy Sebok. She is known for her natural keyboard technique, "Motion & Emotion," which helps pianists avoid injury. Her festival appearances include Marlboro, Aspen, Sitka, Tel Hai, and many others. She has over a dozen recordings on Fleur De Son and Centaur Records, and continues to divide her time between New York and Florida.

Esther Jeehae Ahn

Weber State University

Associate Faculty, Bay PianoFest

Lauded by the Boston Musical Intelligencer for her interpretive coherence and graceful realization, pianist **Esther Jeehae Ahn** has captivated international audiences with her rare blend of musical brilliance, sensitivity, and emotional depth. As a soloist and chamber musician, she has performed in major venues, series and festivals throughout North America, Asia, and Europe, among them Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, Boston Symphony Hall, Flynn Performing Arts Center, Jordan Hall, Calderwood Hall at Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Seoul Arts Center, Mozart Hall, Moscow Conservatory, University of Music and Theatre Leipzig, Rockport Chamber Music Festival, Busan Music Festival, Summer Institute of Contemporary Performance Practice, International Liszt Symposium, Korean-American Cultural Foundation, MusicFest Canada, and American Liszt Festival.



Esther earned her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance from New England Conservatory and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music, with a minor in Accompanying and Chamber Music. She has received numerous awards, including first prizes in the Junior Chopin Competition, Harvard Musical Association Competition, Boston Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition, Busan Music Festival Competition, Ye-Eum Piano Festival, the Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award, the Frances B. Lanier Award from NEC Prep, and the Arnold C. Taylor Award from Walnut Hill School for the Arts, where she graduated summa cum laude and was inducted into the National Society of High School Scholars. She has performed as guest artist at the South Korean launch of Steinway & Sons, the Ministry of National Defense in South Korea, and the US-Korea Conference in New York. Her performances have aired on NPR's From the Top and WSMR Classical.

Equally fluent in traditional and contemporary repertoire, Esther has worked with composers Peter Maxwell Davies, Unsuk Chin, Rodney Lister, and Rand Steiger, and performed works by John Cage, George Crumb, Jeff Tyzik, John Harbison, and Steve Reich. She premiered solo works by Amy Dunker honoring Ukraine. Recent appearances include the American Liszt Society, NOVA Chamber Music Series, Bonneville Chamber Music Festival, Korean American Federation of Utah, Ogden Piano Festival, the Browning Trio, and two gala events for Walnut Hill. She is also featured on Thom Priest's Running the Green for bassoon and piano. Her 2023–2024 season includes concerts in California, Florida, and Utah—including Saint-Saëns' Piano Concerto No. 5—recitals in Mississippi, Virginia, and North Carolina, performances at Shalin Liu Performance Center in Rockport, MA, the Korean-American Alliance's 70th anniversary, and a recital tour with tenor Michael Gonzalez.

As an artist-teacher, Esther is dedicated to nurturing personal expression, compassion, and creativity. She is Assistant Professor of Piano at Weber State University, where she directs the WSU Piano Festival and Accompanying Area. She served as Program Assistant at the Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival at USF Tampa for two seasons and was a faculty-mentor at Bravo Waukegan. A sought-after adjudicator and clinician, she chairs the MTNA Piano Performance Competition for Utah and formerly chaired the Collegiate Program for the Utah Music Teachers Association. Past teaching appointments include NEC, Eastman, and Clarke University.

Zhen Chen

Manhattan School of Music Precollege
Associate Faculty, Bay PianoFest



Praised as a "technically proficient soloist with sparkling tone" (*das Orchester*, Germany) and "astonishing stylistic confidence" (*Piano News*, Germany), multi-award-winning pianist-composer **Zhen Chen** has performed as a soloist and chamber music artist at prominent music venues in USA, Europe and China, such as Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium, Lincoln Center's David Geffen Hall, Preston Bradley Hall of the Chicago Cultural Center, China National Centre for Performing Arts and Jaguar Shanghai Symphony Hall. His live performances and recordings have been broadcast by France's Radio Classique, Austria's Radio Klassik, Chicago WFMT 98.7, Princeton WPRB 103.3, WCNY Classic FM, and China Central Television.

Recent performances include appearing as a soloist with Chamber Orchestra Mannheim in Germany (Kurpfälzisches Kammerorchester) under the baton of the prominent French conductor Paul Meyer and the internationally acclaimed conductor Thomas Rösner of the Beethoven Philharmonie in Austria, interpreting Mozart's quintessential piano concertos including Nos. 15, 20, 21 and 24. Zhen's "fresh, spontaneous, natural and warm" (*Pizzicato*, Belgium) performance of Mozart's Piano Concertos Nos.15 & 21 has been featured by Europe's leading classical concert video streaming service Symphony.Live. Highlights of upcoming seasons and projects include Zhen's debut at the Berliner Philharmonie with the Berlin Symphony Orchestra (Berliner Symphoniker) performing George Gershwin's riveting Piano Concerto in F major, recording collaboration with the German State Philharmonic of Rhineland-Palatinate under the baton of the British-Swiss conductor Howard Griffiths and a tour engagement with the Northwest German Philharmonic Orchestra (Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie) playing Mendelssohn's monumental piano concertos.

As an enthusiastic chamber musician, Zhen Chen has worked with eminent violinists, such as Maxim Vengerov, Cho-Liang Lin, Elmira Darvarova, and outstanding instrumentalists of the New York Philharmonic and the Orchestra of Metropolitan Opera in concert and recording engagements. He has been an official collaborative pianist of the Shanghai Isaac Stern International Violin Competition (SISIVC) and the International Music Competition Harbin (IMCH). In the 2025 season, he tours with the Vienna-based Glière String Quartet in Germany, Austria, and the U.S.A., presenting an all-Mozart chamber music program. Zhen Chen wears another hat as a performer-composer who bridges Eastern and Western sensibility and musicality. His cross-culture and cross-genre composition works were crystallized in the albums *ERGO: New Music for Piano and Chinese Folk Instruments* (Navona/Naxos, 2017) and *On & Between: New Music for Pipa and Western Ensembles* (Navona/Naxos, 2018). The featured music video of *Turpan Tango*, a hit from his album *ERGO*, has accumulated over 1 million views on various video platforms. The album *On & Between* won the Gold Medal of Global Music Awards for Best Show top honor, Best Album, and Best Instrumentalists. As an avid recording artist, Zhen has been a voting member of the Grammys (The Recording Academy) since 2017.

Zhen Chen received a bachelor's degree in piano performance from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing and a master's degree in piano performance under Arkady Aronov at the Manhattan School of Music in New York City, where he also earned a master's degree in collaborative piano and chamber music with Heasook Rhee. He joined the piano and the chamber music faculty of Manhattan School of Music Precollege in 2022 and was inducted into the Steinway & Sons Teacher Hall of Fame in 2023.



5th Season - Bay PianoFest
Musical Arts @San Francisco

Faculty Series

HieYon Choi

— Steinway Artists



BEETHOVEN SONATAS
NO.13, OP.27-1
NO.16, OP.31-1
NO.21, OP.53 (WALDSTEIN)

4:30 PM, August 13th 2025
Caroline H. Concert Hall
50 oak Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

www.baypianofest.org
info@baypianofest.org

5th Season - Bay PianoFest
Musical Arts @San Francisco



Jerome Lowenthal

Faculty Series

4:30 PM, August 9th 2025

Caroline H. Concert Hall

50 Oak Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

Schubert Four Impromptus, Opus 90

Prokofieff Sonata No. 2 in d minor

Allegro ma non troppo

Scherzo: Allegro marcato

Andante

Vivace

Tchaikovsky The Seasons

January: At the Fireside

February: Russian Carnival

March: Song of the Skylark

April: Snowdop

May: May Nights

June: Barcarolle

July: The Song of the Reaper

August: Harvesting

September: The Hunt

October: Autumn Song

November: Troika

December: Noel

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info@baypianofest.org



5th Season - Bay PianoFest
Musical Arts @San Francisco



Opening Night Gala

Haydn: Piano Sonata in G Major, Hob.XVI:6
Medtner: Sonata Tragica, Op.39 No.5
Schubert/Liszt: Ständchen
*Rachmaninoff: Four Pieces from Moments
Musicaux, Op. 16 (Nos. 1-4)*



6:00 PM, August 3rd, 2025
Barbro Osher Recital Hall
200 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco, CA 94102

featuring Yi-Chen Feng
FIRST PRIZE WINNER,
2024 San Francisco International Piano Competition

MEET THE TEAM

Liang Pan - *Manage Director/Media Production Director*

Liang Pan is an expert in public relations, creative project management, and education consulting. He has produced eight classical music albums, which have been released worldwide and received international acclaim, and has produced over 18 concerts in the U.S. and Europe for classical musicians. He holds degrees in International Relations and Media, Culture & Communication from Tufts University and New York University.



Dr. Danlei Yang - *Assistant Director*

Dr. Danlei Yang is a distinguished pianist, harpsichordist, and music educator currently serving as the piano instructor at Southern Arkansas University. As a performer, she has appeared in solo and chamber concerts at renowned venues and international festivals throughout the United States, Europe, and China. Notably, she performed at Carnegie Hall after winning a prestigious national competition. Her artistry has been recognized with numerous accolades, including prizes from the MTNA Piano Competition, IPPA International Piano Competition, Franz Liszt Center International Piano Competition, and the KAWAI Asia Piano Competition.



Dr. Yang actively promotes the work of female composers, particularly those of Asian heritage. Her scholarly presentations—highlighting figures such as Chen Yi—demonstrate a commitment to enriching the classical canon and fostering cultural inclusivity. Through performance, research, and teaching, she makes meaningful contributions to the evolution of classical music.

Her pedagogical experience includes leadership as Director of the KU Community Music School, where she balanced instruction and administration. Dr. Yang earned her Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance, with a cognate in Piano Pedagogy, from the University of Kansas. She completed a Master of Music in Piano Performance and Literature from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Texas Christian University. Her principal teachers include Dr. Scott McBride Smith, Dr. William Heiles, and Dr. Tamás Ungár.

Dr. Mei (May) Li - *Program Assistant*

Dr. Mei (May) Li began her professional piano studies at the Middle School affiliated with the China Conservatory in Beijing. She has performed widely at national and international festivals and is a veteran of numerous competitions, earning prizes across China as early as age 13. In August 2015, she was admitted to the TCU School of Music as a recipient of the prestigious Nordan Music Scholarship and held a studio collaborative assistantship. She earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees at TCU under the guidance of Dr. Tamas Ungar.

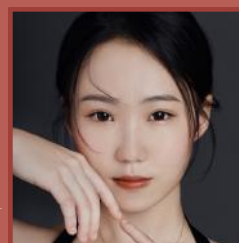


Her recent accomplishments include winning third prize nationally in the 2017 MTNA Young Artist Piano Competition and first prize at the 67th Wideman International Piano Competition. In 2018, she was awarded first prize and the Brisch Center for Historical Performance Bach Award at the Kuleshov International Piano Competition. That same summer, she won first prize in the piano division at the Semper Music International Festival in Italy and received the “Antena 2” Prize from the classical Portuguese radio station Antena 2 in Portugal.

Dr. Li recently completed her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the Eastman School of Music, where she studied with Professor Alan Chow, Head of the Piano Department. As a collaborative pianist, she served as a collaborative piano assistant at Eastman for four years and received the 2022 Verdehr Trio Award for outstanding chamber music performance. She will continue her studies this fall, pursuing a Professional Certificate at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music under the guidance of Professor Jon Nakamatsu.



Tszyan Chau
Program Booklet Designer



Bingjian Chen
Intern Program Assistant

5th Season - Bay PianoFest
Musical Arts @San Francisco



Young Artists Concert

7:00 PM, August 5th 2025
7:00 PM, August 12th 2025

Barbro Osher Recital Hall
San Francisco Conservatory of Music
200 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco, CA 94102



www.baypianofest.org
info@baypianofest.org

5th Season - Bay PianoFest
Musical Arts @San Francisco



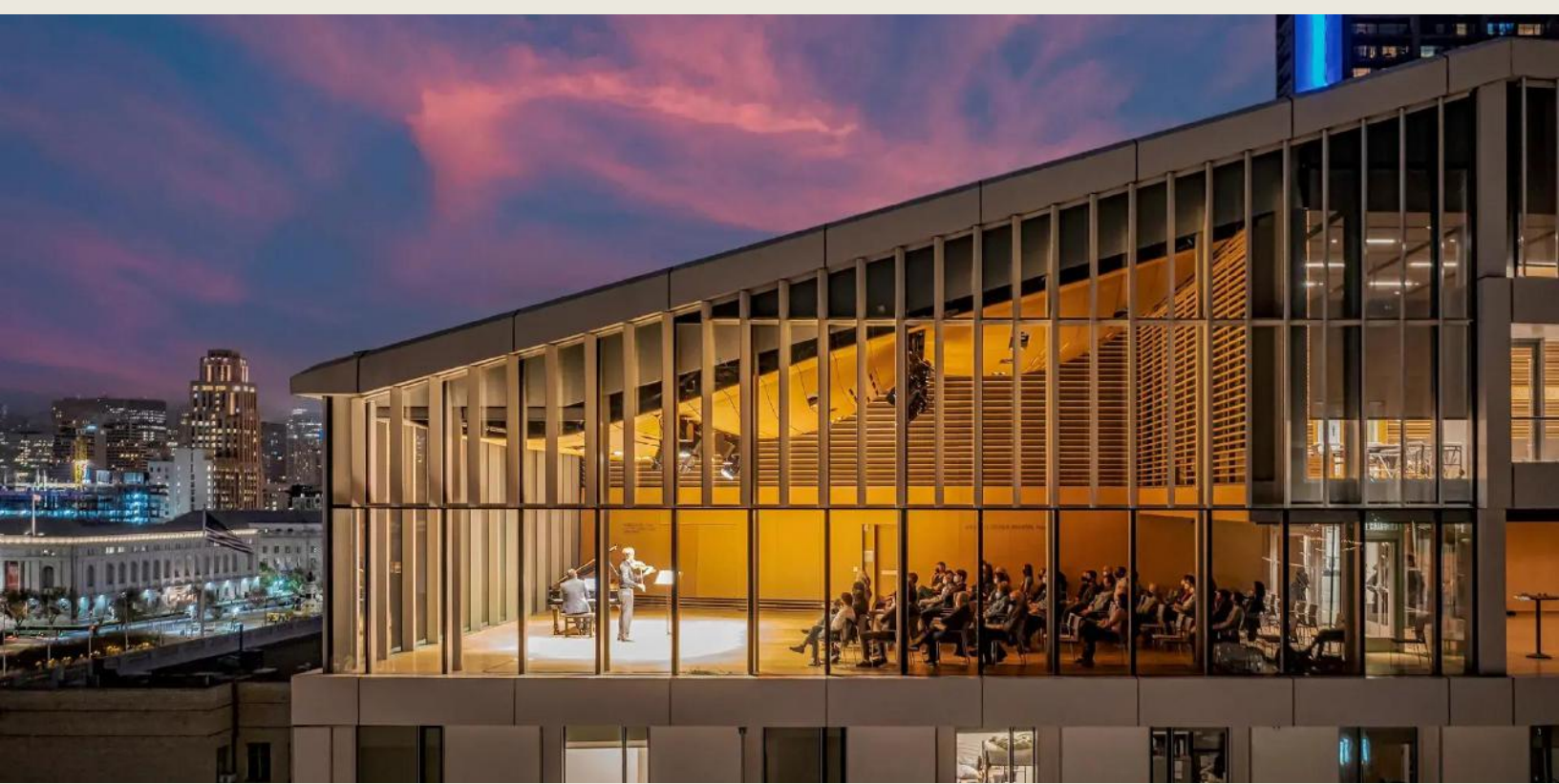
Junior Artists Concert

7:00 PM, August 8th 2025
7:00 PM, August 10th 2025

Barbro Osher Recital Hall
San Francisco Conservatory of Music
200 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco, CA 94102

www.baypianofest.org
info@baypianofest.org





San Francisco Conservatory of Music

The San Francisco Conservatory of Music (SFCM) is a private music conservatory in San Francisco, California. As of 2021, it had 480 students.

In 2020, SFCM announced a partnership with the talent management company Opus 3 Artists, and in May 2022 it acquired the Dutch classical music label, Pentatone, funded by a private donor. The music website "Classical Voice" described this "combination of a music-education organization with two professional music businesses" as "unusual." SFCM is the only music school that leads an alliance combining world-class education with a legendary label, two prominent artist management companies, and their premier clients. For students, that means more opportunities to interact with touring artists and industry experts—including professional development workshops, side-by-side performances, and enhanced masterclasses.

Made up of a wide-ranging piano department and smaller but equally dynamic harpsichord, organ, and collaborative piano programs, SFCM keyboard department transforms students into accomplished performers. You'll collaborate across departments, perform within the Conservatory and around San Francisco, and develop your style alongside celebrated faculty and visiting luminaries. Small studio sizes foster personalized instruction and support. Undergraduate and graduate music degrees, as well as professional studies certificates, round out a far-reaching program that offers emphases in historical performance, collaborative piano, chamber music, and general instrument studies.

SFCM's Pre-College Academy is an immersive program that instills the value of music in youth 18 and under, providing an artistic framework and tailored instruction for the next generation of musicians. Our curriculum integrates private lessons with musicianship courses, small and large ensemble experiences, master classes, jury assessments, and performance opportunities, making music a core part of their lives.

Our Academy program has earned a national reputation for providing superior training to young musicians throughout their course of study. As a result, our alumni have excelled, entering top-level collegiate music schools and conservatories, and distinguishing themselves professionally as performers, composers, teachers, and scholars.

<https://sfc.edu/>

Fellowship Artists



Hyojin Shin

Artistic Diploma, San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Hyojin Shin has performed worldwide in France, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Israel, the United States, Morocco, and South Korea, on four continents. Since her orchestral debut at the age of 11 with the Suwon Philharmonic Orchestra, Shin has appeared as a soloist with the Bazzini Consort Orchestra, the Morocco Philharmonic Orchestra, the Yale Philharmonia, and the Miami Chamber Orchestra, among others.

Her international accomplishments include the first prize and the Audience Prize at the 2024 Lyon International Piano Competition, the first prize and the Best Performance prize for an Ibero-American composition at the 2023 Teresa Carreño Master International Piano Competition, the third prize at the 2023 Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli Competition, and the Sascha Gorodnitzki Discretionary Prize at the 2024 Gina Bachauer International Artists Piano Competition.

Shin earned her bachelor's degree from Seoul National University where she studied with Aviram Reichert, a Master of Music degree and a Master of Musical Arts degree at the Yale School of Music under the tutelage of Boris Slutsky, and an Artist Diploma at San Francisco Conservatory of Music, studying with Yoshikazu Nagai. She will be pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts at Peabody Institute from this fall and continuing her studies with Boris Slutsky.

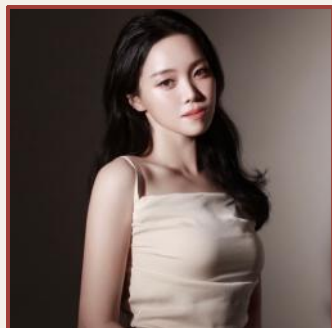


Yi-Chen Feng

Artistic Diploma, San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Pianist Yi-Chen Feng is the recipient of numerous prizes from competitions including the Dallas International Piano Competition, San Francisco International Piano Competition, New York Liszt International Piano Competition, Grand Canal International Piano Art Festival, San Jose International Piano Competition, and the Virginia Waring International Piano Competition. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2022, performing Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Orchestra of St. Luke's at Stern Auditorium. He is the top prize winner of the inaugural International Maestro Piano Competition in Taiwan, which led to concert engagements and a recording contract with Universal Music Group.

Yi-Chen earned his Bachelor's degree from the Peabody Conservatory, and went on to receive both a Master of Music and an Artist Diploma from the Yale School of Music, where he studied with Boris Slutsky. He recently completed a second Artist Diploma at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music under the guidance of Yoshikazu Nagai, and will return to Peabody in the fall of 2025 to pursue his Doctor of Musical Arts with Boris Slutsky.



Soyeon Chang

MM, Seoul National University

Soyeon Chang, a South Korean pianist, her first concert took place at the Seoul Arts Center Concert Hall. She completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees at Seoul National University. She won numerous awards, including 3rd prize at the Seigfried-Weishaupt International Piano Competition (2023) and 2nd prize at the Amadeus Vienna Piano International Piano Concerto Competition (2024). Soyeon has performed with major orchestras and participated in international festivals.

Young Artists



Jing Ao

BM, Eastman School of Music

Jing Ao began her formal piano education at the Secondary Art School affiliated with the Sichuan Conservatory of Music, where she studied from 2014 to 2022. She continued her undergraduate studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, under the guidance of Edoardo Turbil from 2022 to 2024, and then transferred to the Eastman School of Music in 2024. Jing has received many national and international awards. Most recently, she won the Gold Prize in the Professional Group at the 2024 Macao Piano Competition. Her achievements in Europe include the Rising Star Award at the 7th Internationaler Deutscher Irmler-Klavierwettbewerb (Germany, 2021) and Second Prize at the Bach Internationales Jugendmusikfestival in Mannheim (2017), where she also received top honors in the Classical Piano and Etude categories. Earlier awards include the Outstanding Award at the 6th KAWAI Asia Piano Competition (2019) and the Gold Prize at the Xinghai Cup National Junior Competition in China (2014). Jing Ao is currently pursuing her undergraduate degree at the Eastman School of Music, studying with Professor Alan Chow, Chair of the Piano Department. Alongside her solo work, she is also active in collaborative piano, working with both instrumentalists and vocalists.



Hayoung Baek

BM, Eastman School of Music

Hayoung Baek is a pianist from Denver, Colorado. She previously studied with Dr. Wenanczusz Naszkowski. Currently, she is a sophomore, studying with at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She spent her summer at 2024 Amalfi music festival, and participated in the recital and Boris Berman's masterclass. She gave several solo and collaborated recitals at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music working with many other professional musicians.



Min Jae Back

MM, Universität Der Kunste Berlin (UDK)

A native of Seoul, Korea, Min Jae Back began playing the piano at the age of 11. His extraordinary talent was quickly recognized, as he won numerous prizes in prestigious competitions. After graduating from Yewon Arts School, he continued his studies at Seoul Arts High School. During his first semester there, he was accepted to the Universität der Künste Berlin (UdK), where he studied under Professor Markus Groh and pianist Donghyek Lim. He is currently studying with Professor Mi-Joo Lee and Evgeni Bozhanov. Min Jae Back is a prizewinner of the Haneum Competition, Rome International Competition, Seoul Arts High School Competition, and Ricard Viñes International Piano Youth Competition. He has performed with the Haneum Philharmonic Orchestra and has given solo recitals in Spain, Germany, and Korea. He continues to build his reputation both as a compelling performer and as a promising young artist dedicated to the art of music.



Bingjian Chen

BM, The Colburn School of Music

Bingjian Chen, born in 2003, began studying piano at the age of six and was performing publicly by ten. At twelve, she was admitted to the Middle School affiliated with the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, where she completed her high school diploma. In 2022, she was accepted into the Colburn Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles, where she is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree under the guidance of renowned pianist Fabio Bidini. Bingjian has appeared as both a soloist and chamber musician in venues

including Zipper Hall at the Colburn School, Herbst Theatre in San Francisco, Shanghai Jiukeshu Future Music Center, Shanghai Heluting Concert Hall, Xiamen Concert Hall, Rocca Sforzesca in Italy, and on China Central Television (CCTV). She has been mentored by distinguished artists such as Professor Sharon Mann, Professor Alan Chow, and Professor Anna Sheludko.

A consistently high-achieving student, Bingjian graduated from middle school with top honors and received numerous scholarships, including the Niu En De Scholarship, the Shanghai City Scholarship, the Shanghai Municipal Education Commission Scholarship, and the school's merit-based award every semester.

In 2021, she was invited to give a recital tour across Shandong Province, Shanghai, and her hometown of Shangqiu. In 2023, she won first prize in both The Artcial Piano Competition and the Royal Piano Competition. In 2025, she made her debut at Henan University as the youngest invited artist, followed by recital tours at Shangqiu Normal University, Shanghai Jiukeshu Future Music Center, and a recital in Saint Petersburg, Russia. She will also appear in the Clara Haskil International Piano Competition in August 2025.



Eileen Chen

BM, Shepherd School of Music at Rice University

Eileen Chen is a rising sophomore undergraduate studying piano at the Rice Shepherd School of Music under Professor Jeanne Kierman Fischer. She also studies with Professor Timothy Hester at the University of Houston Moores School of Music.

Eileen started piano at the age of five and studied extensively with Dr. Mei Rui for 13 years. Raised in Houston, Texas, she went to the Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, where she was involved in chamber music and collaboration. Her accomplishments include 1st prize in the 2023 Baylor/WACO Piano Competition and finalist in the 2023 Chicago International Competition. In the past she has attended the Oberlin Summer Festival, Texas State International Music Festival (TSIPF), and the Brancalonei Festival in Italy. Eileen loves exercising and reading in her free time and is pursuing another degree in biosciences.



Kevin Sung-Hoon Cho

MM, Yale School of Music at Yale University

Twenty-two-year-old pianist Kevin Cho is from Santa Clarita, CA, and is a recent graduate from Vanderbilt University with a B.A. in Medicine, Health, & Society. A YoungArts and NPR's From The Top alum, he made his concerto debut at the age of nine with the Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra.

Since then, he has been featured as a soloist with the Antelope Valley Symphony Orchestra and the Southwestern Music Festival Orchestra. Highlights of his musical career include 3rd Place at the MTNA National Young Artists Piano Competition (2025), MTNA Tennessee Winner (2022), Level I winner at YoungArts (2022), 1st place at the 22nd Virginia Waring International Competition (2019), 2nd place at the 9th Yamaha USASU International Piano Competition (2019), and 1st place at the National MTNA Junior Piano Competition (2018). He has previously participated in such festivals as Pianofest in the Hamptons, Gijon International Piano Festival, Montecito International Music Festival, and Brevard Music Center.

Cho started his piano study at the age of four and a half with his mother, Dr. Agnes Kim, and has been under the tutelage of Rufus Choi, Dr. Craig Nies, Dr. Heather Conner, and now Alexander Korsantia at the Yale School of Music. In addition, he has participated in masterclasses with such artists as Fabio Bidini, Stanislav Ioudenitch, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Kevin Kenner, Oxana Yablonskaya, Jerome Lowenthal, Peter Takács, Marina Lomazov, Lucinda Carver, Dmitry Rachmanov, Sasha Starcevic, and John Perry. Outside of music, he enjoys snowboarding, traveling, and meeting new people.



Annelise Combitsis

BM, Manhattan School of Music

Annelise Combitsis is a pianist from Livermore, CA, currently based in New York City. Annelise was a top finalist in the 2024 Philadelphia International Piano Competition, and has been awarded top prizes in national and international competitions throughout the years.

She has performed in venues throughout the United States, including Merkin Hall in New York City, Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, PA, and Steinway Piano Gallery in Walnut Creek, CA. In 2024, Annelise participated in the Philadelphia Young Pianists' Academy. In addition to her performing career on stages, Annelise enjoys volunteering and sharing her music with her community; she frequently performs at memory care centers and hospitals.

Annelise is pursuing her bachelor's degree at the Manhattan School of Music under Dr. Inesa Sinkevych. Her notable masterclasses include Jonathan Biss, Mikhail Voskresensky, Jerome Lowenthal (Juilliard), and Alexander Korsantia (New England Conservatory). Outside of piano, Annelise enjoys swimming, cooking, photography, and spending time outside.



Jesse Retief Distiller

MM, Universitat Der Kunste Berlin (UDK)

Pianist Jesse Distiller, 18, studies with Sharon Mann. He recently graduated from College Preparatory School, and is heading to the Eastman School of Music to study piano performance with Marina Lomazov this fall.

In summer 2024, Jesse attended the Amalfi Coast and Oberlin music festivals. In the summer of 2023, he attended the Krakow Piano Summer music festival. Jesse has won prizes 3 years in a row at the East Bay Music Festival Piano Competition. He played piano for the short film Princeton's in the Mix. Jesse has a lot of chamber music experience, including the Young Chamber Musicians (YCM) program, performing at the opening of the Cupertino Public Library in 2022, and in the East Bay Chamber Music Festival. Jesse attended the San Francisco Conservatory of Music (SFCM) for two years, where he won an award for his work in musicianship/music history. Jesse is also a frequent composer, and his accomplishments include composing a full score for his school's production of Argonautika.



Yiting Han

BM, San Francisco Conservatory of Music

As an accomplished classical pianist, Yiting has proved herself an extremely consistent, diligent, and dedicated musician.

She publicly performed a wide-range of classical repertoire including works by J.S. Bach, W.A. Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Frederick Chopin, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Sergei Prokofiev, Alexander Scriabin, etc. Yiting is serious and passionate about sharing the highest quality of classical music. She hopes to inspire her audience through the story she tells using her unique musical language.

Yiting was the Grand Prize winner of the 2017 Korea Times Competition, 1st place winner in the 2020 Young Artist Music Competition from Image International Music Festival, 1st place in 2019 California Association of Professional Music Teachers Romantic/Impressionistic Competition, and 1st place in 2018 New York Golden Classical Music Awards International Competition. In addition to her numerous awards at piano competitions, she has also performed with Image International Music Festival's (IIMF) String Quartet and the Antelope Valley Symphony Orchestra at Bach in the Subway. Yiting is currently pursuing BM in San Francisco Conservatory of Music under Yoshikazu Nagai's studio.



Kaoruko Hayashi

BM, Shepherd School of Music at Rice University

Pianist Kako Hayashi is a junior at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, where she studies under the guidance of Jon Kimura Parker. She began her piano studies at age five with Helen Twiss, later continuing her education with Akiko Gaffney for eight years and Alexandre Moutouzkine for two years before attending college. She has received numerous accolades, including first prize at the Steinway Junior Piano Competition and prizes at the Tkaczewski International Piano Competition and the Young Texas Artists Competition. Recently, she was a finalist in the Shepherd School Concerto Competition. She has performed as a soloist with the Sacramento Youth Symphony and Orchestra Virtuosi Brunenses. Kako has participated in masterclasses with renowned artists and performed in summer festivals across the globe, including the John Perry Academy, Kirishima International Music Festival, Philadelphia Young Pianists' Academy, Vivace Music Festival, MusicAlp International Academy, Music Fest Perugia, Académie Internationale d'Eté de Nice, and Lunigiana International Music Festival, where she was awarded a special prize. A dedicated soloist and chamber musician, Kako regularly performs at a variety of venues and is actively involved in community outreach events.



Xinyu He

MM, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music

Twenty-four-year-old pianist Xinyu He is currently pursuing her Master of Music degree at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, where she studies with Chi Ho Han. A prizewinner of numerous

national and international competitions, she has won Second Prize at the Kawai Asia Piano Competition, Silver Prize at the Steinway National Youth Piano Competition (Jiangsu Region), Gold Prize at the Shanghai International Youth Piano Competition (Zhejiang Region), Silver Prize at the Zhejiang Province College Piano Competition, among others.

Highlights of her musical career include masterclass appearances with such artists as Piotr Paleczny, Ewa Kupiec, Aviram Reichert, Antonio Pompa-Baldi, Colin Stone, and many others. Her playing has been praised by Van Cliburn International Junior Piano Competition juror Adam Golka as that of "a truly outstanding pianist with an impressive musical presence—her understanding and interpretation of music are nothing short of extraordinary." Outside of music, she is passionate about photography and enjoys sharing her work on social media platforms.



Hanmo Jiang

BM, San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Began to play the piano at the age of four, I've luckily received guidance from many great professors, who helped me continue to move forward to become a fully developed artist. Along with many events and competitions, I'm also accumulate experience in various performance opportunities, which in my opinion

is one of the key elements of becoming a great performer. My passion for the piano is not limited to solo, I also enjoy playing in ensembles with other instrumentalist and studying the history behind different types of pieces as well, which leads to some masterclasses and ensemble performances in various concert halls, and a lecture on the performance of Chinese music. Outside of music, I am also interested in studying music-related technologies, such as recording technology and sound design. In my free time, I also enjoy hiking.



Xinyu Jiang

BM, San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Xinyu Jiang, 20 years old, now studying with Prof. Yoshikazu Nagai in San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Was studied with Prof. Christopher Zhong in Shanghai music middle school affiliated with Shanghai Conservatory of Music.

She won numerous awards both domestically and internationally, with extensive performance experience, also attended many music festivals such as Amalfi piano festival, France Jacobin Festival, Shanghai Great Tone Festival.



Shengyu Jin

BM, Mannes School of Music

Shengyu Jin, a Chinese pianist living in the United States, has received strict classical piano training since childhood. He has established a distinctive personal language in classical piano works. He has performed publicly in many concert halls, and his performance footprints have spread all over the

world, including New York, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Xiamen, Yiwu, etc., and he combines traditional skills with contemporary aesthetics in recordings and live performances. He has been studying under Huang Xiang, an associate professor at Zhejiang Conservatory of Music since he was ten years old. He is currently studying at the Mannes School of Music in the United States, where he studies under the internationally renowned pianist and educator Professor Vladimir Valjarević. During his studies, he was guided by many masters, such as Asaf Zohar, Pavlina Dokovska, etc. He has received invitations from many internationally renowned music festivals, such as the Aspen Music Festival, Vivace Music Festival, Bay Area International Piano Festival, etc.

He not only has a unique understanding of solo piano, but also has made great achievements in chamber music and collaborative piano. While in school, he studied collaborative piano collaboration skills with Juilliard/Mannes professors, famous pianists, harpsichord players, and educators Audrey Axinn. He is also guided by the famous American conductor Mark Shapiro in conducting. In addition to playing, he has also made achievements in music production. He is studying for a minor degree in audio production at the Mannes College of Music. He has also participated in recording and mixing work many times.



Judy Terri Ji

MM, Manhattan School of Music

Terri Ji is a pianist from NYC and the winner of the MSM 2024 Dora Zaslavsky Koch concerto competition. She made her New York debut with the MSM Symphony Orchestra performing Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini.

She has appeared as a soloist with the Vienna Ball Orchestra at Vienna Konzerthaus, and been featured as a Young Artist Awards finalist with Northwest Focus Live, 98.1 KINGFM radio. She has performed at Klavierhaus in New York, with Virtual Concert Halls as part of their Sound Espresso Laureates recital series, and is also the winner of 2022 Pacific International Piano Competition and gold medalist at the 2021 Chopin Northwest Festival. She made her orchestral debut with the Philharmonia Northwest as a winner of the 2017 Seattle Young Artists Music Festival. She is currently a junior at the Manhattan School of Music, where she studies with Marc Silverman.



Aidan Kaplan

BM, Oberlin College and Conservatory

Aidan Kaplan has been a passionate musician for most of his life. He is 20 years old and a Sophomore at Oberlin Conservatory. Aidan began his piano instruction at the age of five under the tutelage of Lori Bastien, who has co-authored piano books for children and adults with her mother, pianist and teacher, Jane Smisor Bastien.

From 2020-2023, Aidan was a student of Kevin Fitz-Gerald, Professor of Piano at USC Thornton School of Music. Currently at Oberlin, Aidan studies with Professor Alvin Chow, Chair of the piano department.

Aidan was a 2024 finalist of the Musical Merit Foundation competition of Greater San Diego and received a \$5,000 career grant, a Regional Finalist in the Southern California Jr. Bach Festival in 2021, a Panel Finalist with State Honors in 2022 at the MTAC Certificate of Merit Panel State Convention, and was a frequent finalist in the MTAC Piano Sonata Contests. He has placed first honors in the Crescendo International Youth Music Competition, third in the American Protégé International Piano and Strings Competition, first in Best Bartok Performance (Great Composers Competition), and more.



Xinang Lei

BM, San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Xinang Lei, born in 2005. She was admitted to Xi'an Conservatory of Music Attached Middle School. Currently a sophomore at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music under professor Sharon Mann. Some of the awards won: First Prize of Junior A Group of the 10th Chopin Junior International

Piano Competition, China Region, 2016 Second Prize of Group C, Xi'an Competition of the Second National Piano Competition of Changjiang Piano, "Little Golden Bell Award" of Chinese Music 2019 First Prize of Professional Junior Group in the Second Shaanxi Society Cup High Sky Piano Competition First Prize in J Group of the Preliminary Competition of the 20th Osaka International Music Competition China Region, 2019 The 10th Steinway & Sons National Youth Piano Competition and the 85th Steinway & Sons International Youth Piano Competition China Regional Competition Northwest Region Professional C Group Second Prize.



Siwen Luo

BM, Oberlin College and Conservatory

Siwen Luo is a first-year undergraduate student at Oberlin Conservatory, majoring in piano under Professor Angela Cheng and minoring in organ with Professors Jonathon William Moyer and Vincent Grappy. Originally from China, she began playing the piano at the age of six and was admitted to Wuhan

Conservatory of Music in 2018, where she studied with Fan Liu. She has also worked with renowned pianists and pedagogues, including Inesa Sinkevych, Michael Lewin, José Ramón Méndez, Hong Xu, Dahao Guo and Laura Melton.



Jihyun Park

MM, Seoul National University

Jihyun Park is a South Korean pianist known for her sensitive interpretations and artistic depth. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Seoul National University, studying under Jonghwa Park and Sungmoon Jung.

She has participated in masterclasses with distinguished artists including Ian Hobson, Victor Rosenbaum, Philippe Bianconi, Scott Cuellar, Antti Siirala, Read Gainsford, and Boaz Sharon.

Jihyun has received top prizes in several competitions, including the T&B International Concours, Music Education News Competition, Mozart International Competition, Korea Liszt Competition, Korea-Asia Open Competition, and the 2018 Illinois Concerto Competition. Her performance experience spans both solo and ensemble settings, such as the Ebony and Ivory Concert Series, SNU Piano Duo Concert, and her graduation recital. Her collaborative spirit is reflected in her extensive ensemble work, including vocal and horn accompaniment as well as chamber music with piano trios. She is also committed to community engagement through volunteer performances at hospitals and teaching piano to children from multicultural families.

Currently, Jihyun is preparing for graduate studies while continuing to broaden her musical and artistic vision. Outside of music, she enjoys floral design and finds inspiration in nature's quiet beauty.



Ty Taya Promreuk

MM, Eastman School of Music

Ty Taya Promreuk is a Thai-American pianist currently studying with Prof. Alan Chow at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, where she also completed her undergraduate studies. Originally from Gilbert, Arizona, where her primary piano teachers were Fei Xu and Karen Nguyen, she now resides in Sunnyvale, California. Taya is an alum of the International Summer Academy at Mozarteum University, Gijón International Piano Festival, Amalfi Coast Music and Arts Festival, Madeline Island Chamber Music Piano Fellowship Program, and several of Adamant Music School's summer sessions. She has performed in masterclasses for Alvin Chow, Angela Cheng, Ya-Fei Chuang, James Giles, Bernadene Blaha, Boris Berman, Logan Skelton, and Alexander Malofeev. Passionate about the multifaceted nature of today's classical music and its ability to connect people, Taya actively engages with new music performance, chamber and ensemble work, and community outreach. In the 2025-2026 season, she will serve as vice president of OSSIA, Eastman's student-led contemporary music organization. Having studied composition with Tomoko Yonemaru since the age of 7, Taya was a two-time first prize winner of the MTNA National Composition Competition in 2017 and 2018; she presented her works in association with Yamaha Music Education System at the 2016 and 2018 NAMM Shows in Anaheim, California. In addition to her musical studies, Taya holds a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering from Arizona State University, from which she graduated summa cum laude in 2021 at the age of 18.



Dylan Pu

MM, Yale School of Music at Yale University

Dylan Pu, 18, is a rising freshman at Yale University and studies with Sharon Mann from SFCM. Dylan has attended the Amalfi Coast Festival, Artical Music Festival, and the Northwestern Piano Duo Program. Dylan has been a winner at the US Open Music Competition, CCPAS Sturm-Page Piano Scholarship Competition, and Bay Area Music Association Competition, as well as a finalist for the Marilyn Mindell Piano Competition, honorable mention finalist in the Palo Alto Philharmonic Concerto Competition and winner of the GSYO Concerto Competition, performing with the orchestra in 2023. Dylan also performed for the Junior Bach Festival for five years and the Young Pianists Play Liszt concert at SFCM. Dylan has performed in masterclasses for Yuja Wang, Alan Chow, Joseph Rackers, Mina Perry, and the Frautschi, Manasse, Nakamatsu Trio.



Chau Minh Tran

BM, Oberlin College and Conservatory

Chau Minh Tran, a 20-year-old pianist from Vietnam, began her piano studies at the age of four. She is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance at the Oberlin Conservatory, where she studies under Professor Alvin Chow. During her second year at Oberlin, Chau was the winner of the Rudolf Serkin Award for Sophomore Pianists. Prior to Oberlin, Chau was a full-scholarship student at the Colburn Academy, where she studied for three years under Professor Fabio Bidini. Previously, she has won international competitions such as the Ricard Vines for Juniors Competition (Lleida, Spain), the Maria Herrero International Piano Competition (Granada, Spain), the Lansum International Piano Competition (Los Angeles, USA), the Milan International Competition (Milan, Italy), and the Euregio Piano Award (Geilenkirchen, Germany). She also received 2nd prize at the FIPMA Piano Competition (Malaga, Spain), 3rd prize at the Rosario Marciano Piano Competition (Vienna, Austria), among others. Chau made her soloist debut at the age of 13 with the Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra, and she has also performed with the Vietnam National Chamber Orchestra and the Wrastislawia Chamber Orchestra in Germany. Chau has performed in many concert halls across Vietnam, as well as participated in numerous festivals and concerts in Europe and the United States. She has had the chance to play in masterclasses with notable professors and musicians such as Jerome Lowenthal, HieYon Choi, Dang Thai Son, Pavel Nersessian, Alexander Shtarkman, Antonio Pompa Baldi, Logan Skelton...



Rebecca Kao Wang

MM, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Rebecca Wang was born in Hong Kong, and immigrated to the US at age 13. She started studying piano at age 7, graduated from MIT with a degree in Computer Science, and worked for 20 years as an actuary in New York and Hong Kong. She lives in San Francisco now.

Rebecca won the third prize at the 5th International Fryderyk Chopin Competition for Amateur Pianists in 2021 in Warsaw, Poland. She also competed at the 2016 Cliburn International Amateur Competition. She has given many solo piano recitals, including at the National Recital Halls in Taipei and Kaohsiung, Taiwan in June 2024, and in Tokyo, Japan in 2016 and 2019. Rebecca enjoys painting and hiking, such as to Everest Base Camp, Patagonia, Tour du Mont Blanc and Dolomites. She currently studies piano with Dr. Sharon Mann.



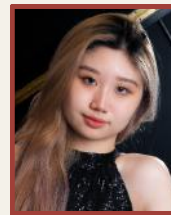
Wenbo Xing

MM, Eastman School of Music

Wenbo Xing is a classical pianist currently pursuing a master's degree at the Eastman School of Music under the guidance of Professor Douglas Humpherys. A passionate musician from a young age, Wenbo soon realized that his love for music extended far beyond a simple hobby. During his high school years, he made the bold decision to leave behind everything familiar and fully commit to the world of professional music.

After graduating from the renowned Interlochen Arts Academy, Wenbo completed his undergraduate studies at the Eastman School of Music, where he quickly found a home among its world-class faculty and vibrant musical community. Drawn to continue his pursuit of excellence, he chose to remain at Eastman to further hone his craft as a graduate student.

In addition to his academic achievements, Wenbo has participated in prestigious summer programs such as the Bowdoin International Music Festival, Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival, and the Amalfi Coast Music Festival, all of which have enriched his musical journey. With an ever-developing artistry, he continues to explore the emotional and technical complexities of the classical repertoire, striving to capture the heart and soul of each piece he performs.



Yuman Xu

BM, Manhattan School of Music

Yuman Lucy Xu began her piano studies at age four in Shenzhen, China. In her early years, she trained at the Lang Lang Music School, later continuing her studies at the Ory Shihor Institute in Los Angeles in 2019.

Her international journey reflects a deep commitment to musical excellence and cross-cultural expression. Yuman gained early recognition by winning first prize at the ASK Berlin International Piano Competition in 2016. She has since performed widely across China, Europe, and the United States. Notable highlights include guest appearances at Lang Lang's charity concert, collaborations with violinist Cho-Liang Lin and pianist Zuo Zhang, and performances with the Hong Kong Salisbury Quartet. She has also appeared at the IMAE International Piano Festival in Philadelphia and been invited to the Boston University Tanglewood Institute Young Artists Piano Program.

Yuman's orchestral performances include Schumann's Piano Concerto in A Minor with Europa Musica Orchestra in Italy and Mozart's Piano Concerto K.466 with the New York International Youth Philharmonic. In 2022, she won first prize at the V International Youth Music Competition at Anselmo Academy.

Currently pursuing her bachelor's degree at the Manhattan School of Music under the guidance of Alexandre Moutouzkine, Yuman continues to refine her artistry. Whether as a soloist or chamber musician, her work is marked by storytelling and a dedication to bridging cultures through music.



Shuyu Yao

BM, Sichuan Conservatory of Music

Yao Shuyu, born on March 9, 2007, began studying piano at the age of five. Over the years, she has studied with several distinguished teachers, including Professor Zhou Fan of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, renowned pianist Qin Chuan, Associate Professor Liu Yangnan of the

Shenyang Conservatory of Music, Associate Professor Gao Xiaoqiao of the Sichuan Conservatory of Music, and pianist Chen Bingjian of the Colburn Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles. She is currently studying piano at the Affiliated Middle School of the Sichuan Conservatory of Music under the guidance of pianists Chen Bingjian and Gao Xiaoqiao. Yao Shuyu has received numerous awards in national competitions, including the Gold Award at the 2018 China International Youth Amateur Art Festival, the Gold Award in the Amateur Group at the 2018 Henan Star Project Starlight China, the Special Prize in the 2018 Lang Lang Master Class Henan Open Selection, and First Prize in the Amateur Group at the 2022 Schimmel China Youth Piano Competition.



Zelong Yao

BM, Eastman School of Music

Zelong Yao's passion for the piano began at the age of five, and by eight, he was studying under the esteemed Professor Xin Xin. That same year, he gave his first solo recital, followed by his concerto debut at eleven. Seeking to expand his performance

experience, he collaborated with the Wuhan Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, performing Yellow River and Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1. At fourteen, under the guidance of Professor Jin Zhou, he deepened his understanding of music theory, refining both his technical and analytical skills. His dedication to artistic growth led him to study with Meng Sheng Shen, further honing his musicianship.

Eager to learn from the world's most renowned musicians, Zelong attended Music Fest Perugia multiple times, including in 2023, when he performed Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 with the festival orchestra. Throughout his participation in the festival, he had the opportunity to study with distinguished pianists such as Wayne Wang, Michael Lewin, Ilana Vered, and Grace Chung. His experiences culminated in performances of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 2 (third movement), Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3, and Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Orchestra del Music Fest Perugia. Additionally, he took part in the JingYing Piano Festival in Tangshan, where a performance at the Tangshan Grand Theater further enriched his stage presence and musical expression. As a member of the Wuhan Philharmonic Orchestra, Zelong regularly performs at prestigious venues, including Qintai Concert Hall, Qintai Grand Theater, Hubei Theater, and Wuhan Theater. A highlight of his career came in 2017 when he performed a double piano concerto alongside French pianist Wanessa Wagner with the Wuhan Youth Philharmonic Orchestra at Qintai Grand Theater. Beyond his solo performances, he has been a dedicated member of the Sky Youth Choir of Central China Normal University since the age of eleven, deepening his appreciation for ensemble collaboration and multi-part harmony.



Xinchen (Johanna) Ye

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Johanna Ye is a software engineer who balances her technical career with a passion for piano performance. She has performed at Stanford University, showcased her talent as a soloist with orchestra at the California Concerto Weekend, and given numerous recitals.

Her dedication to music has also led to top prizes in prestigious competitions, including the American Protege Concerto Competition and the American Fine Arts Festival Concerto Competition. A graduate of UC Berkeley with bachelor's and master's degrees in Computer Engineering, Johanna continues to hone her musical skills through private study with Sharon Mann. In 2019, she was awarded the ARCT diploma from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto.



Wei Yuan

MM, Peabody Institute of John Hopkins University

Wei Yuan is a rising classical pianist and incoming graduate student at the Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University. Originally from Anhui, China, she holds a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM),

where she studied with Professor Biran Dror. She is currently pursuing her master's degree under the guidance of the renowned professor of piano, Boris Slutsky.

With a deep passion for both musical study and performance, Wei Yuan has been an active participant in festivals and has engaged in a wide range of musical activities. These include solo recitals, chamber music concerts, and choir accompaniment, all of which have provided her with rich stage experience and diverse musical perspectives. She has participated in festivals such as the Vivace Music Festival (online), Texas State International Piano Festival, Chicago International Music Festival, and the Bay Area Piano Festival (Bayfest) in 2023. Through these events, she has grown artistically by performing solo repertoire and interacting with musicians and faculty from around the world. During her undergraduate studies at CCM, Wei Yuan presented both solo and collaborative recital performances. These concerts demonstrated her refined understanding of piano literature across various styles and periods, and earned the acclaim of the piano faculty, who recognized her artistic potential and expressive musical voice.



Zijing Zeng

Faculty, Arts at Moscow State University

Zijing Zeng was born in Wuhan in 1997. She started music training at the age of 5. In 2006, Zijing entered the The Attached Primary School of Wuhan Conservatory of Music with Prof. Jian Wang. In 2009, Zijing continued her studies at The Middle School Attached of Wuhan Conservatory of Music with Assoc. Prof. Xian Wang. Since 2013 she also took lessons with Prof. Chun Pan of the Central Conservatory of Music. From 2016, Zijing studied at the Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory in the studio of Prof. Olga Zhukov (Assistant Elenora Karpukhova), and graduated with distinction in 2021. Then she has been an assistant-trainee at Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory in class of Assoc. Prof. Dmitry Kaprin. In 2024 she completed degree Aspirantura with Prof. Alexey Yudin. Now she is studying with pianist Stanislav Korchagin. Zijing currently serves on the Faculty of Arts at Moscow State University.

From the age of ten, Zijing has been participating in numerous concerts, competitions, festivals and master classes. Her competition debut was the Second Wuhan Lux Cup Television Piano Competition in 2008. Two years later, she became a laureate at The Third KAWAI Piano Competition in Wuhan. Zijing has won prizes in many competitions, including The Third F. Liszt Piano Competition in Wuhan (2011), second prize at the First Piano Competition at the Wuhan School of Music (2012), first prize at the K. Imola International Competition (Beijing, 2012), the Changjiang Youth Piano Competition (Wuhan, 2014), a Grand Prix winner at the Moscow Open Interregional Music Competition "Islamey" (Moscow, 2019), diploma winner of the 19. Münchner Klavierpodium der Jugend (Munich, 2019), and so on. In July 2013, Zijing was honored to represent China at the International Festival in Italy (r. Imola). In 2022, she was invited to the Glocal Piano Project, and she's also a participant of the 64th Ferruccio Busoni International Piano Competition. In 2023 she participated in the XVII International Tchaikovsky Competition.

Zijing has performed in many prestigious concert halls in Russia, including Great Hall of Moscow Conservatory, House of music. Zeng Zijing is not limited to solo repertoire, but also has a good cooperative relationship with Kirill Rodin, a famous Russian cellist and educator and the gold medal winner of the Tchaikovsky International Competition. As an active participant of the masterclasses, Zijing has worked with such renowned artists such as Vovka Ashkenazi, Vladimir Tropp, Natalia Trull, Alexander Kobrin, Boris Slutsky, Pavel Nersessian, Stefano Fiuzzi, Stanislav Igolinsky, Philip Kopachevsky. She has been highly praised by masters. The world-renowned pianists Eliso Virsaladze, Vovka Ashkenazi, Vladimir Ovchinnikova, and piano masters Liu Shikun and Li Mingqiang have all given high praise and recognition.



Lanxin Zou

MM, Peabody Institute of John Hopkins University

Lanxin Zou is a gifted pianist currently pursuing a Master of Piano Performance at the prestigious Peabody Conservatory (2023-2025). Originally from China, Lanxin began her musical education at the Central Conservatory of Music before moving to the United States to further her studies.

She earned her Bachelor of Music degree from Arizona State University (2019-2023), where she developed a deep appreciation for both the technical and expressive elements of music.

Throughout her education, Lanxin has had the privilege of studying with renowned teachers such as Prof. Benjamin Pasternack, Dr. Steven Spooner, and Prof. Robert Hamilton. Their mentorship has helped shape her into a versatile and thoughtful pianist, known for her ability to bring out the emotional depth of every piece she performs. Lanxin has performed at some of the world's most distinguished venues, including Carnegie Hall and Goodwin Hall, where she has received widespread acclaim for her captivating performances. Her talent and dedication to her craft have earned her recognition in numerous competitions, including a 1st place award at the 2022 Golden Classical Music Awards.

In addition to her solo performances, Lanxin has participated in several prominent music festivals, including the New Paltz Music Festival, the AZ Chapter Festival of the American Liszt Society, and the Walnut Hill Festival. These experiences have expanded her repertoire and further honed her skills as an artist. With her combination of technical prowess, musicality, and passion for performance, Lanxin Zou is quickly establishing herself as one of the most promising young pianists of her generation.

Junior Artists



Natalie Burr

First Prize Winner of The Etude Club Young Artist Competition

Natalie Burr is a junior at the Oakland School for the Arts in Oakland, California. She began her piano studies at age six and currently studies with Dr. Sharon Mann. In 2025, Natalie was awarded 1st prize in The Etude Club Young Artist Competition and the East Bay Music Festival Piano Competition, where she also received the Piano Technicians Guild Special Prize. In 2024, she was also a prize winner of the San Francisco International Piano Competition, the Pacific Musical Society & Foundation Competition, and The Etude Club Young Artist Competition. She also attended the Bay PianoFest, where she participated in a masterclass with Professor HieYon Choi.

Earlier, Natalie has been awarded prizes at the San Francisco Chopin Competition, the East Bay Music Festival Piano Competition, the Great Composers Competition, the California Association of Professional Music Teachers Honors Competition, and the Junior Bach Festival. Outside of competitions, Natalie enjoys performing every Saturday at The Watermark by the Bay, a senior housing center, where she shares her music with the community.



Tristen Chen

Pre-College, San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Sixteen-year-old pianist Tristen Chen began his musical journey at the age of five. He currently attends the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre-College, where he majors in piano under the tutelage of Sandra Wright Shen. Tristen has garnered numerous accolades in piano competitions.

Most recently, he was awarded the 3rd prize at 2025 Silicon Valley Open Door International Piano Competition. He was awarded the silver medal at the 2024 San Francisco International Piano Competition (Junior Artist) and was named the Northern California 1st Alternate in the 2024 MTAC Concerto Competition. In 2023 and 2022, he received 1st prizes at the US Open Music Competition in both solo and duo categories. In 2024, Tristen was featured on NPR's "From The Top," performing Liszt's La Leggerezza. He also won 1st prize in the MasterWorks Festival Concerto Competition in 2024, leading to a performance of Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Masterworks Orchestra. Tristen has been invited to perform at various prestigious events and venues, including San Jose NoonArts & Lectures in 2024 and 2025, as a guest artist for a Cadence Collective Foundation fundraising concert in 2025, at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in 2018, and at the opening ceremonies of the Sonoma International Film Festival in 2019 and 2018.

His musical development has been further enriched through chamber music studies at the California Music Preparatory Academy (2023-2024) and participation in the John Perry Academy of Music Summer Festival (2017, 2018) and the MasterWorks Festival (2021-2024). Tristen has had the opportunity to participate in masterclasses led by renowned artists such as Jon Nakamatsu, John Perry, Ning An, Slava Gryaznov, Wael Farouk, Melinda Lee Masur, Xun Pan, Siheng Song, Lishan Hung, and Heidi Williams



Emily Dong

Prize Winner of the US International Music Competition

Emily Dong, age 14, is from Los Altos, California. She currently studies piano with Sandra Wright Shen, Piano Chair at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music pre-college division, and French Concert Pianist Matthieu Cognet.

Emily has won top prizes at venues such as the Opus Music Competition (State Level - California), US International Music Competition, Bay Area Global Music Competition, Great Composers Competition, US International Open Music Competition, and the US Open Music Competition. She participated in the 2024 Rushmore Music Festival as a young artist fellow and won first prize at the festival concerto competition. At the 2023 Masterworks Festival, she won an Honorable Mention in the Raymond Solo Competition as the youngest contestant. Besides solo performance, Emily also enjoyed chamber music through her attendance at the 2024 Sun Valley Music Festival Advanced Chamber Program, 2024 Rushmore Music Festival and 2022 Music at Tateuchi. As a young pianist, Emily has performed in masterclasses for Stephen Hough, Alexander Kobrin, Sean Kennard, Melinda Lee Masur, Taylor Eigsti, and Philip Setzer of the Emerson String Quartet. She also had the honor to play Chopin for Madam Ruth Slenczynska. Outside of music, Emily loves playing badminton and visiting new places.



Emily Fang

Prize Winner of the Franz Liszt Center International Competition

Emily Fang, 13, started learning piano at the age of five. She has won many awards including top prizes of Crescendo International Competition, Franz Liszt Center International Competition,

CAPMT Honors competition, CAPMT Contemporary competition, CAPMT Concerto Competition, United States Open Music Competition, Piano Star International Competition, Auburn Symphony Young Artist Competition, and Great Composers Concerto Competition.

Emily has appeared as soloist with Europa Musica Orchestra, Classical Hugs Orchestra, and Sierra Symphony Orchestra. She has performed in prestigious venues in the US as well as in Europe.

Emily loves sharing her music with the community. She performs regularly at community fund raising events and senior centers. She also enjoys making music with her friends in chamber groups. Besides piano, Emily enjoys reading, playing the violin and doing competitive gymnastics.



Isabel Feng

First Prize Winner of The San Jose International Piano Competition

A 13-year-old pianist from California, Isabel Feng has been performing throughout the USA, Canada, China, and Italy, after making her Carnegie Hall debut at the age of 6. Her competitive accolades include MTNA Junior Piano Competition California State winner and Southwest Division alternate, 1st Prize at all three CAPMT California State Competitions and MTAC Piano Concerto Solo State Competition, 1st Prize at San Jose International Piano Competition, Grand Prize at Xinghai Cup National Piano Competition in China, Special Prize at Kaufman International Piano Competition, 1st Grand Prize (among all categories from the age of under 8 to 35) at the Vancouver International Music Competition, and 4th Prize at the International e-Piano Junior Competition. Isabel has been selected to participate in prestigious festivals including Frost Chopin Academy and Cleveland International Piano Institute for Young Artists. Her highlights of previous seasons include debuts as soloist with Folsom Lake College Youth Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra Virtuosi Brunenses, Orchestra Europa Musica, and Florence Conservatory Orchestra. Isabel loves to share music with everyone. She also plays violin.



Elusha Ferrarelli

Pre-College, San Francisco Conservatory of Music
Elusha Ferrarelli is a 17-year-old pianist from San Francisco, California, originally born in New York, and currently a junior at San Francisco University High School. He has been studying at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre-College Division since 2024, where he is a double major in piano and music production.

He began his piano studies at the age of eight and currently studies with Dr. Sharon Mann. While his early years at the piano were shaped by steady growth and quiet curiosity, it was in recent years that his relationship with the instrument deepened. A growing fascination with the expressive potential and sound of the piano gradually transformed his interest, leading to an expanded focus on performance and exploration. He participated in the Boston University Tanglewood Institute Summer Music Festival in 2024 and the Oberlin Piano Festival in 2025, and has performed in masterclasses with Haesun Paik, Shai Wosner, John Blacklow, and Sandra Wright Shen. Outside of classical piano, he enjoys traveling, composition, and sound engineering.



David Gatien

First Prize Winner of 2024 Seattle International Piano Competition

David Gatien, from Bellevue, WA, studies piano with Professor Yoshikazu Nagai at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre-college. He has earned numerous First Prize awards in local and international competitions such as the American

Protégé International Music Competitions (with Judges' Distinctions), the Charleston International, and the ENKOR International Piano Competitions, among others. At age 12, David was the youngest to compete in the Concerto Division of the 2022 Northwest Chopin Competition and win Gold. He has also received First Place awards in the Washington State Music Teachers' Association (WSMTA) Scholarship Competition, is a twice-designated WSMTA State Recitalist, and is the recipient of the 2023 Ida Zelikovsky Green Award for Outstanding Talent (Best Performer, Grade 5-11). More recently, he won First Prize at the 2024 Seattle International Piano Competition and at the San Francisco International Piano Competition.

David participated in the 2024 Amalfi Coast Music and Arts Festival, where he was a featured solo artist in the "Rising Stars" Concert Series in Maiori, Italy. He has also performed on the Seattle-based radio show, "Northwest Focus Live," on 98.1 Classical KINGFM. In addition, he has had masterclasses with Michelle Cann, Jon Nakamatsu, Awadagin Pratt, Alvin Chow, and Boris Berman, among others.



Bridget Hoang

Prize Winner of The Celia Mendez Young Pianists Beethoven Competition

Bridget Hoang is an incoming 11th grader at Ann Sobrato high school in Morgan Hill, California. She began playing piano at age 5 and currently studies with Olya Katsman. She has performed as a soloist with the GSYO's Camilla Kolchinsky Orchestra and the Palo Alto Philharmonic.

Among her awards are winner of the 2025 Celia Mendez Young Pianists Beethoven Competition, 2025 Creative Artist Review Panel Award from the Bay Area Creative Foundation, winner of the 2025 Palo Alto Philharmonic Concerto Movement Competition, 1st place winner of the 2025 Henry and Carol Zeiter Piano competition, 1st place winner of the 2025 CAMPT Concerto and CAPMT Honors District Competition, 1st place winner of the 2025 CCPAS Sturm-Page Competition high school division, 2nd place winner of the 2025 Marilyn Mindell competition senior division, winner of the 2024 Golden State Youth Orchestra Concerto competition, State Winner of the 2024 MTAC State Solo competition, first place winner of the 2024 Marian Filice Piano Competition in the high school division, and Junior division winner of the 2023 Marilyn Mindell Piano Competition. Bridget has participated in many summer piano festivals including Piano Texas, Southeastern, Texas State International Piano Festival, and Vivace Music Foundation. She has had master classes with Rebecca Penny, Alexander Kobrin, Michelle Cann, Joseph Rackers, Marina Lomazov, Boris Slutsky, Peter Mack, and Dmitry Rachmanov. Besides piano, Bridget also loves reading, writing and poetry. She enjoys making connections between the music she plays and the literature she reads.



Emily Tianru Jin

Pre-College, New England Conservatory of Music

Emily T. Jin, ten years old from Massachusetts, started piano lessons at the New England Conservatory (NEC) Prep School at age five. She has since performed at notable venues, including Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, Lincoln Center, Merkin Hall of Kaufman Music Center in New York City, Benaroya Hall in Seattle, Academy of Music in Philadelphia, Rockport Music Performance Center, Williams Hall and Brown Hall at NEC in Boston, Hatch Hall and Howard Hanson Hall at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, as well as Van Cliburn Concert Hall, Ed Landreth Hall and PepsiCo Recital Hall at TCU in Fort Worth, among others. Emily has studied the piano with A. Ramón Rivera, Xu Guo, Yutong Sun, and Motti Fang-Bentov. She has participated in masterclasses and seminars with renowned pianists and pedagogues, including Randall Hodgkinson, Victor Rosenbaum, Yong Hi Moon, Melvin Chen, Marina Lomazov, and Enrico Elisi.



Bennett Charles Larsen

Prize Winner of The UMTA Concerto Competition

Bennett, age sixteen, is a dedicated and passionate musician. He started playing piano at age seven and was self-taught for three years before beginning formal lessons with Karoun Arslanian. He has been studying under Dr. Esther Ahn at Weber State University since July of 2023.

Bennett has placed in many competitions including: UMTA Concerto Competition, American Mountain West International Piano Competition, Ogden Piano Festival, Weber State University Piano Festival, Salt Lake Piano Competition, and the Utah MTNA Piano Performance Competition. He obtained a gold medal at the San Francisco International Piano Competition. Bennett was a member of the student jury for the prestigious Gina Bachauer International Young Artists Piano Competition, a semifinalist for the International Young Artists Concerto Competition, and a finalist for the Arthur Fraser Piano Competition. He has also been a part of the Piano Inspirato program with the Gina Bachauer Foundation, playing at elementary schools around Utah. He has performed at numerous events with the local music program Onstage Ogden, including short recitals at senior homes, local stages, and holiday events. On top of practicing, he also enjoys composing, reading, and writing.



Letian Lei

Pre-College, San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Letian Lei, a sixteen-year-old musician, began his musical journey at the age of five with the piano and expanded his passion to the flute at ten. Driven by his dream of a musical career, Letian relocated from his native China to California at age

twelve to join the prestigious San Francisco Conservatory of Music's Pre-College Program. There, he studies under the guidance of Professors Meikui Matsushima and Catherine Payne, continually refining his artistry and deepening his commitment to classical music. Letian has a deep passion for music and a strong affinity for collaboration, which has led to extensive experience in chamber music.

As an active participant in SFCM's Pre-College Program, he has performed a variety of chamber works, including Beethoven's Trio for Piano, Flute, and Bassoon (WoO 37). In August 2023, he participated in the Zephyr International Chamber Music Festival in Italy, where he performed Mendelssohn's Piano Trio in D Minor alongside violinist Brendan Shea and cellist Matteo Camogliano—a particularly memorable experience.

Beyond his chamber music endeavors, Letian has served as principal flutist in the California Philharmonic Youth Orchestra's senior orchestra and showcased his talents at the 2023 Junior Bach Festival. He has also participated in master classes with several renowned piano teachers, including Mack McCray, Ory Shihor, Antonio Pompa-Baldi, and Alexander Kobrin. Collaborating with fellow musicians, especially those from diverse international backgrounds, is a source of great joy for Letian. He treasures the unique perspectives his collaborators bring to the music, enriching every performance. In addition to his collaborative achievements, Letian has earned numerous award prizes.



Everett Leigh

First Prize Winner of The Bösendorfer and Yamaha USASU International Piano Competition

Under the esteemed guidance of Professor Ethan Dong since age nine, fifteen-year-old Everett has emerged as a piano prodigy whose extraordinary talent has been recognized by eminent figures including Professors Boris Berman, William Grant

Naboré, Robert McDonald, Baruch Meir, Carol Leone, Inna Faliks, Robert Shannon, Stanislav Ioudenitch, and renowned pianists Alessandro Deljavan and Eric Lu.

Everett's competitive achievements include winning the prestigious Bösendorfer and Yamaha USASU International Piano Competition, being named Pianist of the Year at the AD LIBITUM Warsaw International Piano Competition, claiming victory at the SoCalPhil Young Artists Concerto Competition, and being a finalist of From the Top and at the Spotlight Competition. His remarkable journey includes over 50 victories in international competitions and features as the cover story for Maestro Magazine and WOMCO.

As a soloist, Everett has performed with the Vicente Chamber Orchestra of California, Pacific Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Santa Barbara Symphony, Glendale Youth Orchestra, and SoCal Philharmonic. His artistry has graced prestigious venues including Carnegie Hall, Disney Hall, the Soka Performing Arts Center, Nixon Library, and Alex Theater.

Everett holds the distinction of being the sole Junior Piano Soloist appointed by the United Nations, representing UNITAR at the "Piano Recital Recording Concert for Refugees", with his performance featured in a UN-produced documentary. As a social entrepreneur, Everett founded EverEverest Non-Profit Organization, which helps underprivileged students launch businesses while creating a self-sustaining cycle where successful ventures contribute back to fund future opportunities.

Everett is also a champion swimmer, holds a Taekwondo Black Belt, is an expert in Pokémon lore, and enjoys traveling.



Caden Li

Pre-College, The Colburn School of Music

Caden Lin grew up in Los Angeles, California, and started learning piano at the age of 6. He is a rising Senior and studies with Fabio Bidini, HyeJin Kim, and Rodolfo Leone at the Colburn Music Academy. He was the Gold Medal Winner of the 2025 Palm Springs International Junior Piano Competition

(formerly The Waring) and also the recipient of the Whitter Trust Confidence Foundation (Audience Prize) Award. Other competitions include first prize in the 2024 Marine Band Concerto Competition in Washington, D.C, the 2023 Colburn Academy Concerto Competition, the 2020 Steinway Virtual Piano Competition (Southern California), and the Aloha International Piano Competition in Honolulu, Oahu in 2018. Also an active chamber musician, Caden and his piano trio received the Horszowski Trio Prize in the 2024 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition.

Caden participated in 2025 in PianoTexas as a Young Artist performer, and was the only participant under 18. He had masterclasses with Paul Lewis, Richard Goode, Yoheved Kaplinsky, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Enrico Elisi, Jan Jiracek Arnim, Tamás Ungár, Piers Lane, Boris Slutsky, Michael Roll, and Jerome Rose. He has performed at prestigious venues including the McCallum Theatre in Palm Desert, the Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU, Ed Landreth Hall at TCU the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center in Virginia, Lille Sal in Denmark, Weill, Carnegie Hall in New York, and Orvis Auditorium at the University of Hawaii. He also performed as a soloist at Zipper Hall in Los Angeles, playing Mozart's Triple Concerto with Jean-Yves Thibaudet and the Academy Virtuosi Orchestra at the 2022 Colburn Gala Concert. In April 2024, he performed alongside the United States President's Own Marine Chamber Orchestra in Alexandria, Virginia. Along with music, Caden enjoys spending time with his friends and exploring nature in the California National Parks.



Kenneth Liu

Prize Winner of The 7th International Music Festival of Melbourne

Kenneth Liu is 13 years old, a 7th grader. Kenneth started his piano journey at Starworks Music Studio at the age of 7. He was trained under the guidance of Mr. Zhen Chen. Over the years, Kenneth won numerous awards in various international piano competitions.

They include 2nd prize winner in the 7th International Music Festival of Melbourne in 2021, 2nd prize winner in VIVACE International Piano Competition North America in 2021, 2nd award in 2023 Artical International Piano Competition etc. Besides piano, Kenneth likes tennis and rowing.



Edie Jena Park

First Prize Winner of the 2024 Chicago Chamber Music Festival Concerto Competition

Edie Park (16) is a Merit Scholarship Fellow at the Music Institute of Chicago's Academy, a pre-college program for gifted musicians, where she studies piano with Marta Aznavoorian and Winston Choi.

Edie made her orchestral debut with the Northeastern Illinois University Orchestra under the baton of Benjamin Firer after winning the 2024 Chicago Chamber Music Festival Concerto Competition. In April 2025, her live performance was featured on Introductions, 98.7 WFMT. She has been invited to perform at prestigious venues including Carnegie Hall (NY), Beethoven Haus (Bonn), and Royal Albert Hall (London).

Some of her recognitions from international, national and local competitions include the Grand Prize Virtuoso International Music Competition, American Protégé International Piano & Strings Competition, VSA International Young Musicians Program, Sejong Music Competition, Ruth Monte Bach Competition, and ISMTA and MTNA Piano Competitions.



Vincent Quoc Pham

First Prize Winner of the FFMC Solo and Concerto Competitions

From Tampa, Florida, Vincent Pham, age 17, attends Gaither High School. Vincent started piano lessons at the age of four. Since 2019, he has studied with Professor Rebecca Penneys. Starting at a very early age, Vincent has taken part in many festivals, competitions, and master classes.

He has won numerous first place awards in both the FFMC Solo and Concerto Competitions. He won first place at the FSMTA Concerto Competition in 2019 and 2022. He also received first place in the American Protégé Competition in 2017 and first place with the Judge's Distinction Award in 2018. He received the 2019 FFMC Irene Muir Award among 1500 competitors. As a result, Vincent was selected to perform for the NFMC Convention in 2019. He was invited to perform at Carnegie Recital Hall 2016, 2017, and 2018. He performed at the Music Concerto Hall at the USF School of Music in May of 2022. In 2021 and 2023 he attended PianoTexas, and in 2022 he attended the IU Piano Academy and Oberlin Piano Festival. He has had the honor to play for Stanislav Ioudenitch, Dang Thai Son, Tamás Ungar, and Haewon Song among many others in lessons or masterclasses.



Lucas Trinh

First Prize Winner of The United States Open Music Competition

Lucas Trinh is a homeschooled junior and began playing piano when he was 4. He has been growing his piano skills under the watch of Dr. Sharon Mann for the past two years. He has received awards at several competitions, including

6-time Scholarship Recipient at the Memorial Scholarship Foundation Music Festival, 4-time 1st place winner at the United States Open Music Competition, 2nd place at the East Bay Music Festival, 2nd place at the Sturm-Page Music Competition, and 3-time Honored Performer Junior Bach Music Festival. Additionally, last summer he was one of twenty students selected to attend the Oberlin Piano Festival, learning from esteemed teachers such as Alvin Chow, Robert Shannon, Haewon Song, and Ernest Barretta. This summer he was one of five highschoolers selected to attend the Masterworks Piano Festival. He is also the co-chair of the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society (CCPAS) - Student Chapter, a non-profit organization which seeks to provide performing opportunities to musicians and free enriching experiences to the public. With CCPAS, he has organized numerous seasonal student concerts, senior home recitals, and theatre pre-show performances in order to share his love for music with his community.



Zhuoyi Xu

Middle School Attached to China Conservatory of Music

In 2021, he was admitted to Middle School Attached To China Conservatory of Music for professional studies, under the guidance of Xiaofeng Zhang, a doctor of Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin, and Deputy director of the

Piano Department at Middle School Attached To China Conservatory of Music. He also performed excellently at Steinway Beijing Horowitz Concert Hall, Ningxia Grand Theatre, China Conservatory of Music National Music Hall, and Jinjiang Zuchang Concert Hall. He has won numerous international competition awards, including the first prize in the Junior Group of the 13th Macau International Piano Invitational, the 3rd prize in the Young Euregio Piano Award International Youth Piano Competition. During his studies at Middle School Attached to China Conservatory of Music, Zhuoyi Xu was fortunate enough to receive guidance from the 2005 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition winner Professor Alexander Korbin from the Eastman School of Music, Professor Victor Rosenbaum from New England Conservatory of Music, Professor Yoheved Kaplinsky from The Juilliard School, Professor Hung-kuan Chen from The Juilliard School, Professor Orli Shaham from Juilliard School, Professor Gábor Farkas from Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music, and Pianist Sa Chen.



Chenghe (David) Wang

Pre-College, San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Wang Chenghe, born in 2012, began studying piano at the age of five. He quickly showed remarkable promise and has since earned numerous accolades in both national and international competitions.

He won Second Prize in the Heilongjiang Division of the Xinghai Cup Competition, and in 2023, he received First Prize in the Heilongjiang Division of the inaugural Bay Area Cup Australia International Youth Piano Competition.

In 2024, Wang was admitted to the Preparatory Division of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where he studies with renowned pianist and pedagogue Sharon Mann. He has also been mentored by pianist Bingjian Chen. That same year, he participated in the 2024 San Francisco International Piano Festival.

In 2025, Wang was selected as a semifinalist in the Oberlin International Piano Competition and Festival and was also named a finalist in the 5th San Francisco International Piano Competition.



Eric Wang

Pre-College, Manhattan School of Music

Eric Wang started learning the piano in 2013, at age 5. He learned the piano under Chun Xu up to 2016, and then under Zhen Chen from 2017 to the present date. In 2019, Eric received 1st Place in the VIVO IMC (International Music Competition).

In May 2021, Eric participated in the Vivace IPC (International Piano Competition) and won the Gold Award for North American Division 5. In October 2021, Eric won 1st Prize in the 7th International Music Festival of Melbourne. In 2021 and 2024, he won 1st Prize in his division of the HKGNA IMC. In 2022, he won the Artciál IPC. In May 2023, Eric won the North American Final for the Golden Swan IMC and performed in the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. In 2023, he was admitted into the Manhattan School of Music Precollege.



Max Wang

Pre-College, San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Max Wang, a 7th grader from San Francisco Bay Area, started learning piano at age 5. He has been studying piano with Prof. John McCarthy from SFCM. Max was the previous first place winner of Artcial Piano Competition in 2023. He since put more efforts in composition.

He was awarded in the MTAC with his piece McDonald Variations. Max was awarded 3rd Place in 2024 Kamsa Piano Competition. In previous years, Max was awarded Grand Championship in California State talent Competition for both Solo and Duet in 2008. He has also been invited to play at the Junior Bach Festival in 2021. Max was the First Place winner for Bach Special Theme Award in USIMC in both 2021 (Group A - 9 and Under) and 2022 (Group B - 12 and Under). He was also awarded the 3rd Place in the Pacific Musical Piano Competition in 2025. In 2022 USOMC, he was awarded the 2nd Place for Showcase Solo and the 2nd Place for Treasure of Romantic Composer - Advance Group.

Max is also partnered with SpiritCare Ministry to Seniors and Morning Star Senior Center as their volunteer pianist to play for the seniors who need special memory care in many Bay Area locations. When he saw the seniors enjoying his playing, he knew he can do more with his music for his communities.

While not playing piano, Max can be found on Golf course, Tennis Court or at home with his books.



Heming Yu

Affiliated Middle School of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music

Heming Yu began piano studies at the age of five and is currently enrolled at the Affiliated Middle School of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music.

His principal teachers have included Professor Chen Weiling and his current instructor Chu Yue, a faculty member at the Shanghai Conservatory.

Over the years, Yu has distinguished himself in numerous international competitions. He won First Prize at the 2025 Chopin in Cyprus International Concerto Competition and was named Gold Medalist at the 2023 Hannover International Piano Olympiad (China Division, Professional Junior Group A). In 2022, he received Third Prize at both the 9th Seattle International Piano Festival (Age 10–13 Division) and the Magnolia International Music Competition (Professional Junior Division). Earlier achievements include First Prize at the 2021 Berlin International "Rising Star" Music Competition (Age 10–12 Division) and the 2019 Singapore International Classical Piano Competition (Junior Group C).

As a performer, Yu has appeared in solo recitals at the Cadillac Shanghai Concert Hall in both 2025 and 2024 as part of the "Music Afternoon Tea" series. He has also performed at the 2024 Texas International Piano Festival in the United States and collaborated with the Shandong Song & Dance Theater Symphony Orchestra for the Qilu Elite Youth Symphony Concert in 2023.

Yu is a multiple-time recipient of the Niu Ende Scholarship, awarded by the Shanghai Conservatory Affiliated School in recognition of his outstanding musical accomplishments and dedication.



Zihao Zhang

Affiliated Middle School of the Xi'an Conservatory of Music

Zihao Zhang was admitted to the piano department of middle school attached to Xi'an Conservatory of Music in 2020, and study under the guidance of Associate Professor Jia Liu.

During his study, he won the second prize in the junior group of the Chinese region of the Correno International Piano Competition, the second prize in professional junior group of the 6th "Steinberg Cup Youth Piano Competition, the second prize of 25th Santa Cecilia International Piano Competition in Shaanxi Region, the first prize of 2023 Singapore International (Youth) Piano Competition in Shaanxi Region, the honor of "Shaanxi Music Little Golden Bell Piano New Star" in 2024 Chinese Music Little Golden Bell, the second prize in the piano group of the Shaanxi Music Award Instrumental Competition, and also was selected and participated in the Julliard summer piano program and Tianjin Julliard Piano Festival in 2024.

During his time in school, he was excellent in both quality and study, and was rated as a "excellent student" in the piano department of Xi'an Conservatory of Music.

During his study, Zihao Zhang was also lucky enough to receive guidance from Professor Dang Thai Son of Oberlin Conservatory of Music and New England Conservatory of Music, Professor Meng-Chieh Liu of The Curtis Institute of Music and New England Conservatory of Music, Professor Hung-Kuan Chen, Professor Orli Shaham, Professor Aron Wunsch, Professor Juilian Martin, Professor Shai Wosner of The Juilliard School, Professor Ronan O'Hora of London Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Professor and Danwen Wei of Central Conservatory of Music, Professor Chen Jiang of Shanghai Conservatory of Music in China.



Zitong Zhao

Affiliated Middle School of the Harbin Conservatory of Music

Zhao Zitong, an 12-year-old pianist from Harbin, began her piano studies at the age of five. Since 2018, she has trained under Professor Miaomiao Yu and is currently a student of Mr. Li Lihao at the Harbin Conservatory of Music.

Zhao has won nearly 20 awards in domestic and international competitions, including: 1st Place, Fei Tian Yellow River Grand Competition; Grand Prize, San Francisco International Piano Competition (China Final); Grand Prize, "Little Golden Bell" Piano Competition; 3rd Place, Nashville International Chopin Piano Competition.

Zhao has performed internationally in London (UK) and Vienna (Austria), as well as across major Chinese cities including Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Shenzhen. Her appearances in renowned concert halls have earned her the titles "Steinway Young Artist Star" and "Steinway National Youth Piano Competition Ambassador."

In 2024, Zhao was selected as an outstanding young artist to perform Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2 at the opening ceremony of the Zhuhai Breeze-Chimelong International Piano Open Competition. Under the baton of renowned Chinese conductor Shi Shucheng, she shared the stage with celebrated pianists including Liu Shikun, Yuan Jie, and Ruan Yangyang. These experiences have significantly enhanced her concerto performance skills, stage presence, and artistic development.



Lillian Zhou

Prize winner of the Golden Swan International Piano Competition

Lillian Zhou, 10 years old, started playing piano at the age of 6. She is now being guided by expert Mr. Chen Zhen.

She had gotten 3rd prize at Golden Swan International Music Festival Competition in April, 2023. She had also gotten another 3rd prize at the 2023 San Francisco International Piano Competition on June 4th. She has already passed the ABRSM Grade 5. She was also chosen as the main pianist for All County Jazz Band, a group of 6th and 5th grade musicians. Her performance was held at Steinway Hall. Lillian enjoys all forms of art. In addition to her passion for piano, Lillian plays the clarinet in her school band and participates annually in the school's Music Café. Beyond music, she enjoys reading and STEM activities such as Math Olympiad and G.E.M.S. (Girls Who Excel in Math and Science).



Jake Wang

Pre-College, San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Jake is a sophomore at Mission San Jose High School in San Jose, California, and a student at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He began learning piano at the age of four and currently studies under John McCarthy.

He has performed with the Hopkins Junior High Advanced Orchestra and has played duets with his sister. Additionally, Jake has won multiple competitions in Taiwan, where he was raised.

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

5th San Francisco International Piano Competition

August 6th, 2025 (Wednesday)

- 9:00 AM Prodigy Category (Age 5 and under)
- 9:10 AM Rising Star A Category (Age 6-7)
- 9:35 AM Youth Category (Age 10-11)
- 11:30 AM Junior Category (Age 12-13)
- 1:30 PM Senior Category (Age 14-15)
- 3:30 PM Young Artists Category (Age 16-18)

August 7th, 2025 (Thursday)

- 9:30 AM — 12:30 PM Artists Category (Age 18-35)
- 12:45 PM — 1:45 PM Rising Star B Category (Age 8-9)
- 2:00 PM — 4:00 PM Artists Category (Age 18-35)
- 5:30 PM Award Ceremony





Acknowledgements

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to **Professor Yoshikazu Nagai**, whose insightful artistic guidance and professional expertise have been instrumental in making this festival possible. We are profoundly thankful for his unwavering support and encouragement throughout our journey. It is a tremendous honor to have Professor Nagai serve as the Artistic Advisor for Bay PianoFest.

Our heartfelt thanks also go to the **San Francisco Conservatory of Music (SFCM)** for their generous support of young artists and for providing us with this exquisite venue, equipped with world-class facilities that inspire creativity and excellence.

To the dedicated members of the **2025 Bay PianoFest team**, we extend our deepest appreciation. Your tireless efforts, thoughtful contributions, and commitment to excellence have been essential to the successful organization and operation of this festival. Your time and dedication are truly commendable and deeply valued.

Finally, we wish to recognize our **generous donors, trusted partners, and dedicated collaborators**. Your remarkable support and commitment have played a pivotal role in making this festival a success. Your generosity continues to make a lasting impact on our community.

Once again, we extend our most sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to the realization of this festival. Your belief in our mission and your unwavering support are the foundation of our continued growth and artistic achievement.



A celebration of artistry and growth –
39 Masterclasses · 201 Lessons · 7 Concerts · 4 Forums
60 Young Artists Pianists · 12 Distinguished Faculty
10 Unforgettable Days at **Bay PianoFest 2025**

“May the sounds and friendships born here
linger long after the final note,
guiding your journey with joy and purpose.”
— Bay PianoFest Team

“Music is enough for a lifetime,
but a lifetime is not enough for music.”
— Sergei Rachmaninoff

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