

M Manhattan
School of Music

19th Annual International Student Concert

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025 | 7:30 PM
WILLIAM R. AND IRENE D. MILLER RECITAL HALL

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PROGRAM

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|------------------------------------|---|
| FEDŘICH SMETANA (1824–1884) | <i>Fantasy on Czech National Songs</i> Kristine Ayvazyan , piano (Czech Republic/Armenia) |
| ANONYMOUS | <i>Ghequetst ben ic van binnen</i> |
| JOHANNES VERHULST (1816–1891) | <i>Scheiden</i> , Op. 29, no. 5 |
| JOHANNES VERHULST | <i>Verwelkt</i> , Op. 16, no. 2 |
| ALPHONS DIEPENBROCK (1862–1921) | <i>De Klare Dag</i> Louise Jones , soprano (The Netherlands) Xingchen Fan , piano (China) |
| FREDERIK ZEUTHEN (b. 1996) | <i>Tre Nattetanker (Three Night Thoughts)</i> I. <i>Hvor Længe Endnu? (How Much Longer?)</i> II. <i>Må Skyggerne Danse Vildt</i> <i>(May The Shadows Dance Wildly)</i> III. <i>...Før Morgen Kommer (Before Morning Comes)</i> Ruben Høgh , piano (Denmark) |

WONJOO LEE
(b. 1979)

이화우 (*Pear Blossom Rain*)
Text by Yi Mae-Chang

TAESOO HAN
(b. 1973)

아름다운 나라 (*Beautiful Country*)
Lyrics by Jungeun Chae
Soohyun Jo, soprano (South Korea)
Seajeong Jang, soprano (South Korea)
Seoyoung Jang, violin (South Korea)
Sewon Lim, piano (South Korea)

LEVI GUNARDI
(b. 1976)

The Dancer
Sally Yapto, piano (Indonesia)

AUGUST DE BOECK
(1865–1937)

Sonnet from Seven French Songs, no. 4

LODEWIJK MORTELMANS
(1868–1952)

Als De Ziele Luistert (When the Spirit Listens)

PETER BENOIT
(1834–1901)

Ha! Wat heimelijke vreugde geschater
(*Ha! What secret laughter*)
Emma Kristin Batchvarov, mezzo-soprano (Belgium)
Louise Jones, soprano (The Netherlands)
John Knight, piano (United States)

ZHAO ZHANG
(b. 1964)

Numa Ame
Yixiu Yang, piano (China)

TOMASO ANTONIO VITALI
(1663–1745)

Chaccone in G Minor
Muriel Oberhofer, violin (Switzerland / Italy)
Viona Sanjaya, piano (Indonesia)

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

Ghequetst ben ic van binnen

Anonymous

Wounded am I inwardly,
So deeply pierced my heart,
By my great love of you,
so long since wounded to the core,
That where'er I go or turn,
Nor day nor night I rest;
That Where'er I go or turn,
You fill my thoughts alone.

*Ghequetst ben ic van binnen,
Duerwont myn hert soe seer
Van uwer ganscher minnen.
Ghequetst soe lang, soe meer!
Waer ic mij wend, waer ic mij keer,
Ic en can gherusten dach noch nachte;
Waer ic mij wend, waer ic mij keer,
Gbij sijt alleen in mijn ghedachte.*

–Text and Translation from the score to *Quatre Vieilles Chansons Flamandes* by
Arthur de Greef.

Scheiden

Johannes Verhulst

Parting

So many know of coming
So few know of going
Oh parting, oh bitter parting
Yet you cost so many a tear
Yet you have cost so many a heart much pain

Think of it in sorrow and in joy
That you will part from that one day
Of all that has charmed your eye
Of all that has filled your heart
And it teaches you: keep measure in rejoicing
that implies suffering

And came the bitter parting to you
Already often to sigh
And did the love or friendship cost
When fleeing you many a tear
Oh then think more when coming and sooner
to leave

Scheiden

*Er weten zo veel van komen
Er weten zo weinig gaan
Och scheiden, och bitter scheiden
Toch kost gij zo menig een traan
Toch hebt gij zo mening een harte veel smarte gedaan*

*Bedenk het in leed en in luste
Dat gij er eens scheiden van zult
Van al wat uw oog bekoorde
Van al wat uw harte vervuld
En't leer u: hou maat in verblijden in lijden
geduld*

*En kwam u het bitter scheiden
Reeds dikmaals op zuchten te staan
En koste de liefde of vriendschap
Bij't vlieden u menig een traan
Och denk dan bij't komen wat meerder en
eerder om't gaan.*

–Anonymous

Verwelkt

Johannes Verhulst

Withered
There at the deep Rhine
Stands close to the word an oak trunk
Was it not there that my love came
And swore to be eternally faithful to me

The tree was full with leaf upon leaf
And birds on branch upon branch
Was it not there
Was it not there that he broke the oath
And touched another's silk

Still there flows the deep Rhine
But dry and silent is the oak trunk

Oh that death
Oh that death would take me to itself
Then I may be buried there

Verwelkt
Daarginder aan den diepe Rijn
Staat dicht in t hout een eiken stam
Was t daar niet dat mijn liefde kwam
En zwoer mij eeuwig trouw te zijn

De boom was vol met blad bij blad
En vogelkens op tak bij tak
Was t daar niet
Was t daar niet dat hij d'eed verbrak
En aan eens anders zijde zat

Nog vloeit wel ginds de diepe rhyjn
Maar dor en stil is d'eikenstam

Och dat de dood
Och dat de dood mij tot zich nam
Dan mocht ik daar begraven zijn

–Anonymous

De Klare Dag

Alphons Diepenbrock

The clear day that smiles clean and bright
Has shamefully banished the wild cloud host
Restored the peace to the weary, ravaged foliage
And brought sunny silence on the earth

The coolness, refreshing through the trackways
Merely between moist leaves does it drip down softly
Broadly radiates the blue sky and smooth splendor
Whereby the flaky downy clouds float

Oh Eudia, Oh Eudia
Blessed magic word
That brings peace like sacred songs
Or as Homeric song
Penetrates my soul
You have stilled the storms in my breast
With solemn silence embraced my soul
And only my tears drip softly on

De klare dag die schoon en glansrijk lacht
Heeft schaamrood t wilde wolken heir verdreven
De rust aan t moe geteisterd loof bergeven
En zonnig zwijgen over d'aard gebracht

De koelte waart verkwiklijk door de dreven
Slechts tussen vochte bladeren drupt het zacht
Breed straalt des bemels blauw en effen pracht
Waarlangs de vlokkig donzen wolkjes zweven

O Eudia, o Eudia
Gezegend toverwoord
Dat vrede brengend als gewijde zangen
Of als homerisch lied
Mijn ziel doortrilt
Gij hebt de stormen in mijn borst gestild
Met plechtig zwijgen mijn gemoed omvangen
En slechts mijn tranen druppen zachtkens voort

–Poem by Frederik van Eeden

이화우 (*Pear Blossom Rain*)

Wonjoo Lee

As the rain-drenched pear blossoms scatter,
They fall like tears upon the earth.

젖은 배꽃이 흩날릴 제
눈물 비 되어 떨어지네

The pear blossoms fall, the pear blossoms fall,
Blending into the rain.

배꽃이 떨어진다,
배꽃이 떨어진 다 비가 되어

You drift farther away, farther away,
Blinded by love's sorrow.
Is it longing that fills the air?

그대가 멀어진다, 그대가 멀어진다
사랑에 눈이 멀어진다
그리움 때문일까

Watching leaves scatter in the autumn wind,
Do you, too, think of me?
Far, far away, only my lonely beloved
Will you even appear in my dreams?

가을바람에 흩어지는 잎을 보며
그대, 날 생각할까
멀리 저 멀리 외로운 그대만이
꿈에 꿈엔들 보일까

Rain turns into tears,
Each sigh becomes a breeze of blossoms.
In my heart, you fade like a flower

비가 눈물이 되고
한숨 꽃바람 되어
내 마음에 그대가 지네

Shall we meet again in the rain of blossoms, in
a dream?

꽃비 속에서 우리 다시 만날까 꿈에!

The rain-drenched blossoms scatter into
the wind,
Drifting away, becoming you my flower.

젖은 배꽃은 비가 되어 흩날리고
바람 속에 흩어진다, 그대 꽃이 되어.

-Text by Yi Mae-Chang

아름다운 나라 (*Beautiful Country*)

Taesoo Han

When twilight spreads over the distant hills,
The moon gently accompanies every step I take.
How lovely everything appears in the moonlight;
Walls along each alley warmly greet the silver glow.

When winter snow gently settles upon the earth,
Its soft white embrace calms even the fiercest winds.
How fortunate I am to be born
In this land of countless beautiful dreams.

Am I not truly blessed to live
On this land with vast seas and clear blue skies?
The murmuring of rivers, rustling mountain leaves—
Surrounded by such beauty, how could I not be joyful?

Whispers of wildflowers, sounds of grasses
dampened by dew—
Even the pains of youth have their beauty; how
could my heart not rejoice?
Am I not truly blessed to be born
In this land filled with so many beautiful dreams?

The roots of trees, which have weathered harsh
winters,
Grow greener with longing for spring.
Ever greener, spreading thousands of new leaves,
Reaching upward in a single stem toward the sky.

How fortunate I am to be born
In this land full of so many beautiful dreams.
Am I not truly blessed to live
In this land with its vast seas and clear blue skies?

저 산자락에 긴 노을 지면
걸음걸음도 살며시 달님이 오시네
밤 달빛에도 참 어여빠라
골목골목 선 담장은 달빛을 반기네

겨울 눈꽃이 오롯이 앉으면
그 포근한 흰빛이 센바람도 재우니
참 아름다운 많은 꿈이 있는
이 땅에 태어나서 행복한 내가 아니냐

큰 바다 있고 푸른 하늘 가진
이 땅 위에 사는 나는 행복한 사람 아니냐
강 물빛 소리 산 낙엽 소리
천지사방이 고우니 즐겁지 않은가

바람꽃 소리 들풀 젖는 소리
아픈 청춘도 고우니 마음 즐겁지 않은가

참 아름다운 많은 꿈이 있는
이 땅에 태어나서 행복한 내가 아니냐

큰 추위로 견뎌낸 나무의 뿌리가

봄 그리운 맘으로 푸르다
푸르게, 더 푸르게 수만 잎을 피워내
한 줄기로 하늘까지 뻗어라

참 아름다운 많은 꿈이 있는
이 땅에 태어나서 행복한 내가 아니냐
큰 바다 있고 푸른 하늘 가진
이 땅 위에 사는 나는 행복한 사람 아니냐

-Lyrics by Jungeun Chae

Sonnet

August de Boeck

If you wish to look into my heart tonight,
With a friendly gaze, you will see the trust
Entire in my being and the intense desire
To recognize in you my best friend.
The evening is silent. You will know the sweetness
That your dear presence always brings me.
I will even tell you my immense tenderness
And my dearest secret and my rare happiness.
Tonight, your eyes in my soul will suffice:
You will see love dancing there like a flame.
The smiles, the tears, the dreams of always.
But I will not tell, oh dear, I swear to you
The long cruel moments of silent torture,
Nor the desolate mourning that nourishes
my love.

*Si vous voulez ce soir, regarder dans mon cœur
D'un regard amical, vous verrez la confiance
Entière de mon être et le désir intense
De reconnaître en vous mon ami le meilleur.
Le soir est silencieux. Vous saurez la douceur
Que m'apporte toujours votre chère présence.
Même je vous dirai que ma tendresse immense
Et mon plus cher secret et mon rare bonheur.
Il suffira ce soir de vos yeux dans mon âme :
Vous y verrez l'amour danser comme une flamme.
Les sourires, les pleurs, les rêves de toujours.
Mais je ne dirai pas, ô cher, je vous le jure
Les longs instants cruels de muette torture,
Ni le deuil désolé qui nourrit mon amour.*

–Poem by Jeanne Cuisinier

Als De Ziele Luistert (When the Spirit Listens)

Lodewijk Mortelmans

Als de ziele luistert
spreekt het al een tal dat leeft,
't lijkigste gefluister
ook een taal en teeken heeft:
blâren van de boomen
kouten met malkaar gezwind,
baren in de stroomen
klappen luide en welgezind,
wind en wee en wolken,
[wegelen van Gods heiligen] voet,
talen en vertolken
't diep gedoken Woord zoo zoet....
als de ziele luistert!

*When the spirit listens
Their voices it can hear,
Universal secrets
of a sudden ringing clear
Whispers, stir the branches
Secrets flutter through the trees
All the waves in the chorus
Prattle in a thousand keys
Winds and waves and clouds are singing
Hosannas we raise,
Glory be to god who fashioned us
and endless praise
When the spirit listens*

–Poem by Guido Gezelle

Ha! Wat heimelijke vreugde geschater

(Ha! What secret laughter)

Peter Benoit

Ha! Wat heimelik vreugde schater
lokt me naar het Schelde
De water om te waren
Ha! Wat gulle tooverzangen
weken bij me 't zoet verlangen
Weken bij mij zoet verlangen
om te varen

Ha! What secret joy
lures me to the Scheldt
The water to be
Ha! What generous magic songs
sow in me the sweet longing
sow in me the sweet longing
to sail

–Anonymous

PROGRAM NOTES

Fantasy on Czech National Songs

Bedřich Smetana

Bedřich Smetana's *Fantasy on Czech National Songs* is a work that reflects his deep connection to Czech folk music. The piece is based on four folk songs collected by Jan Pavel Martonivský in *Melodies of National Songs in Bohemia: Letěla Husička (A little goose was flying)*, *Měla jsem chlapce, nemám nic (I had a lad, now I have none)*, *Váša sloubů, ten má troubu (The servants' Wenzel has a trumpet)*, and *Slyšel jsem, viděl jsem koničky řehtati (I heard and I saw the horses neighing)*. Through these melodies, Smetana transforms traditional tunes into a structured piano fantasy, developing them with variation and contrast while preserving their folk character. The piece highlights the composer's ability to blend classical forms with the rhythmic and melodic essence of Czech folk traditions.

—Kristine Ayvazyan

Ghequetst ben ic van binnen, Scheiden, and Verwelkt

The pieces I will sing attest to the Netherlands' deeply rooted and specific culture. The true meaning and emotional context of the language used cannot be translated without losing the feeling that these Dutch composers were able to create through language and knowledge of the culture. I hope to convey the feeling these Dutch composers created that testifies to the deeply rooted, specific, and untranslatable Dutch culture.

—Louise Jones

Tre Nattetanker (Three Night Thoughts)

Frederik Zeuthen

I'm happy to share music by my good friend from Denmark, Frederik Zeuthen, whose piece *Tre Nattetanker* I had the pleasure of premiering in the summer of 2023. Frederik describes the work as follows: "Inspired by the often intertwined nature of nocturnal thoughts, the work's three attacca movements are likewise "woven" together, each functioning as an indistinct "window" into the next."

I invite you, as the audience, to tune into this state—perhaps by closing your eyes and experiencing how the misty textures of the music influence your thoughts, and conversely, how your thought patterns shape your perception of the music. I hope you enjoy!"

—Ruben Høgh

이화우 (***Pear Blossom Rain***) and
아름다운 나라 (***Beautiful Country***)

The performance of *Pear Blossom Rain* will take place as part of a special concert featuring Korean art songs. The piece, with its deep emotional resonance and fusion of Korean melodic traditions with Western instruments, will be presented with two sopranos, a violin, and piano accompaniment. The performance aims to convey the poignant sentiments of love and parting, deeply rooted in the cultural history of the Joseon Dynasty. The art song “Beautiful Country,” composed by Tae-soo Han with lyrics by Jung-eun Chae, expresses admiration for the beauty of Korea’s natural landscapes and deep love for the homeland through its majestic melody and heartfelt lyrics.

This performance will feature two sopranos, a violin, and piano accompaniment, enhancing the song’s lyrical depth and grandeur. The combination of expressive vocals and instrumental harmonies will bring out the warmth and pride embedded in the lyrics, allowing the audience to fully experience the song’s profound emotions. Through this performance, we aim to convey the awe of nature, pride in one’s homeland, and appreciation for life, all of which are beautifully captured in this piece. The music and lyrics together create an inspiring tribute to the beauty of Korea, inviting the audience to share in its heartfelt sentiment.

–*Soobyun Jo*

The Dancer

Levi Gunardi

This composition is one of the most aesthetically pleasing pieces I have ever encountered. It is also the work of an Indonesian pianist and composer, Levi Gunardi, whom I am fortunate enough to know personally. The piece showcases the intricate elements of Indonesia’s musical instrument, Gamelan, and other traditional pieces. The melody begins with a simple yet beautiful tune that gradually becomes both musically and technically demanding, culminating in a climactic ending. Notably, Gunardi is also an alumnus of Manhattan School of Music (MSM).

–*Sally Yapto*

Sonnet, Als De Ziele Luistert (When the Spirit Listens), and Ha! Wat heimelijke vreugde geschater (Ha! What secret laughter)

Julianus Marie August De Boeck is a Belgian composer from the turn of the 19th/20th century, at the border of the Romantic and Impressionism eras who introduced the impressionistic style of composing in the region. He has written over 400 works, including lyrical songs, operas, religious and instrumental compositions. *Sonnet* is a song, written by the poem of Jeanne Cuisinier – a French ethnologist with an immense sense of lyrical poetry.

Lodewijk Mortelmans is a Belgian composer, conductor and organist. He is most renowned for the creation of numerous art songs and operas. He is also the founder of the Eugène Ysaÿe competition, which later became the Queen Elisabeth Competition. His is a song about God and the souls in heaven.

Petrus Leonardus Leopoldus Benoit is a Belgian composer and conductor from Flemish Descent, who has created numerous oratorios, operas, cantatas, choruses, and motets. This duet belongs to an oratorio about the Scheldt River in Antwerp.

***Numa Ame* (2017)**

Zhao Zhang

The composer and I came from Yunnan, a southern province of China which is best known for its magnificent rivers and mountains, and, especially for its numerous ethnic minorities. China has 56 ethnic groups in total, and the Hani, predominantly live in Southern Yunnan and are famous for terrace agriculture. In the Hani language, “*Numa Ame*” means “Plain of Sun.” It is a place where the Hani people put their good wishes.

–Yixiu Yang

Chaccone in G Minor

Tomaso Antonio Vitali

Italy was a cultural centre for baroque music. The violin was always very present in Italian music where it became a symbol of virtuosity. For me, Vitali’s *Chaccone* represents my own development, always having a very familiar melody as a base but evolving on top of it through variations and embellishments.

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Ruben Høgh, piano (*Denmark*)

Ruben Høgh (b. 1996) is a NYC-based prizewinning Danish pianist and performer, fully dedicated to exploring the realms of contemporary music. Holding a master's degree in Classical Piano Performance from The Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen, including additional studies in Düsseldorf and Berlin, he is currently a Fulbright scholar in Manhattan School of Music's Contemporary Performance Program. Inspired by everything from post-rock to composers like D. Shostakovich, John Adams, and Julia Wolfe, Ruben was particularly drawn to New York upon discovering Bang on a Can and its multifaceted aesthetic profile. In 2024, he was selected as a fellow at Bang on a Can's annual summer festival at MASS MoCA, fully funded by Art Music Denmark, culminating in several performances at LOUD Weekend, where he worked directly with profound composers such as Meredith Monk and Mathew Rosenblum. He is looking forward to returning to the festival once again this summer while continuing to refine his musicianship at the very center of his artistic motivations in NYC.

Soohyun Jo, soprano (*South Korea*)

Soohyun Jo earned her Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from Chung-Ang University and is currently pursuing a Master's degree at the Manhattan School of Music. She has performed as a soloist with the City Philharmonic Orchestra at Youngsan Art Hall and the Seoul CHORAL Festival. She has also appeared at the Civica Scuola delle Arti Festival, gaining recognition for her artistic interpretations.

Seajeong Jang, soprano (*South Korea*)

Seajeong Jang completed her Master of Music degree at the Manhattan School of Music in 2023 and is currently pursuing a Professional Studies Certificate, expected to graduate in 2025. She studies under Professor Joan Patenaude-Yarnell. She has performed in the operas *L'enfant et les sortilèges* and *Katie The Strongest of the Strong*, as well as opera scenes from *Die Zauberflöte* and *Le nozze di Figaro*.

Seoyoung Jang, violin (*South Korea*)

Seoyoung Jang earned her Bachelor's degree from Kyunghee University and is currently pursuing a Master's degree at the Manhattan School of Music, studying under Professor Lucie Robert.

Sewon Lim, piano (*South Korea*)

Sewon Lim, a pianist from South Korea, earned a master's degree in Collaborative Piano specializing in Vocal Accompanying from Sungshin Women's University. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Collaborative Piano specializing in Instrumental Accompanying under Dr. Heasook Rhee at Manhattan School of Music.

Kristine Ayvazyan, piano (*Czech Republic/Armenia*)

Kristine Ayvazyan has been playing piano since the age of six and studied at the Prague Conservatory under doc. MgA. Martin Kasík, PhD., continuing her studies with him at the Music Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. She is currently pursuing her Master's degree at Manhattan School of Music in New York City under Prof. William Wolfram. A laureate of numerous international competitions, Kristine won the Amadeus International Competition in Brno and the Virtuosi per musica di pianoforte in Ústí nad Labem, received awards such as 2nd prize and the EMCY Prize at the International Smetana Piano Competition in Plzeň, 2nd prize at the International Chopin Competition for Children and Youth in Szafarnia, and 1st prize with the Outstanding Laureate Award in the World's Best Musician competition. She has performed at major festivals and venues, including Carnegie Hall, the Leopold Mozart International Festival in Augsburg, and the International Children's Festival of the Vladimir Spivakov Foundation in Moscow, and has appeared as a soloist with orchestras such as the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Brno Philharmonic Orchestra, North Bohemian Theatre Orchestra, West Bohemian Symphony Orchestra, and the State Chamber Orchestra of Armenia. In addition to her solo career, Kristine has given recitals in Germany, Spain, and Budapest and has also won awards in national violin competitions, as she plays both piano and violin.

Louise Jones, soprano (*The Netherlands*)

Louise Jones is a soprano from the Netherlands, currently in her first year for a BM at Manhattan School of Music under the guidance of the renowned Sidney Outlaw. She is a proud member of the Dutch National Mixed Youth Choir, with whom she has toured performing around Europe, along with numerous venues in the Netherlands, including the Concert building of Amsterdam.

Before moving to New York City to study at MSM, she lived in China for a year, studying at NYU Shanghai under the guidance of Gabriel (Zihao) Song, where she quickly discovered that New York City was the place for her to further excel in her singing journey.

Xingchen Fan, piano (*China*)

Xingchen Fan, a pianist from Zhuhai, China, is currently based in New York City. She is a first-year Professional Performance Diploma (PPD) student in Collaborative Piano at Manhattan School of Music. She previously earned her Master's degree at MSM and completed her undergraduate studies at the China Conservatory of Music as the top-ranked graduate.

She has performed in major venues across China, South Korea, Malaysia, and the United States and has won top prizes at international competitions. She has collaborated with renowned artists such as Helmut Deutsch, Roderick Williams OBE, Daniel Belcher, and Jamie Barton. In 2024-2025, she was selected as the pianist for the Classical Lyric Art Festival and serves as the collaborative pianist for the opera *Remorse*, premiering in New York in February 2025.

Beyond performing, she has participated in international music education programs and enjoys traveling, photography, and skiing.

Emma Kristin Batchvarov, mezzo-soprano (*Belgium*)

Emma Kristin Batchvarov is a young Belgian mezzo-soprano in training and a student of Mary Dunlevy. Prior to starting her education at Manhattan School of Music, she finished the two-year youth program of Royal Conservatoire Antwerp and the youth program of Amsterdam Conservatorium. In 2023, she performed Papagena in *Die Zauberflöte* at Trentino Music Festival and the Dutch National Opera and Ballet. In 2024, she won 1st prize at the Val Tidone International Music Competition.

John Knight, piano (*United States*)

John Knight is a young American classical piano player in training from Alexandria, Virginia, a student of Jeffrey Cohen. He has played numerous masterclasses including with Arie Vardi and Leonel Morales.

Sally Yapto, piano (*Indonesia*)

Sally Yapto has won numerous competitions and performed in various countries. Audiences around the world have enjoyed her musicality and convincing interpretations. As an Indonesian pianist, Sally Yapto made her solo debut recital in Jakarta in 2016, sponsored by I-MEC and Yamaha. Yapto has performed in a winner's gala concert in New York, Los Angeles, Northridge, Italy, Bangkok, Korea, Singapore, Jakarta, Bandung, and Surabaya. She has also performed in New York's Indonesian Consulate, Herb Alpert Music Hall in Los Angeles, and was interviewed by Brian Lauritzen at the Wallis Concert Hall in Los Angeles.

about her piano career and her perspective on music genres. She is the winner of the Bradshaw & Buono International Piano Competition 2024, William Knabe International Competition, Anselmo Academy V International Piano Competition, Asia International Piano Academy Competition, Thailand's Chopin International Competition, and Singapore's Performers Festival Competition, and she is the youngest person to have ever achieved the highest score in the ATCL Trinity Diploma in Indonesia. A twenty-first-century artist, Yapto is also interested in engaging with audiences beyond the conventional concert setting and enjoys community performances in settings like senior centers, teaching passionately and leveraging digital media to connect with new audiences in new ways. She has collaborated with numerous artists and digital brands. Graduated with summa cum laude, Yapto continues her studies as a Master's student at Manhattan School of Music.

Muriel Oberhofer, violin (*Switzerland / Italy*)

Praised for her profound musicality and her naturally flowing tone, Muriel Oberhofer most recently appeared in a number of concerts across Europe, performing in prestigious venues such as Wigmore Hall in London, the Auditorio Nacional de Musica in Madrid, and Tonhalle Zürich in Switzerland. She regularly attends masterclasses, most recently with Hilary Hahn, James Ehnes, and Peter Zazofsky, and at the Kronberg Academy with Vadim Gluzman. Competition successes include winning first prize with distinction at the Swiss National Youth Music Competition.

Last year, Muriel was principal in the Royal Academy Symphony Orchestra's performance of Mahler 3 at the Royal Festival Hall in London under Semyon Bychkov. She previously led the Royal Academy Chamber Orchestra and has co-led projects with the Zurich Chamber Orchestra in the Tonhalle Zürich. As a chamber musician, Muriel Oberhofer plays regularly in chamber music recitals and festivals, performing alongside artists such as Kit Armstrong, Margarita Balanas, and Julian Chan.

Muriel graduated from the Royal Academy of Music with distinction, where she completed her undergraduate and postgraduate studies under the guidance of Nicholas Miller, Roman Simovic, and György Pauk. Upon the invitation of Pinchas Zukerman, Muriel is currently completing her Professional Performance Diploma at Manhattan School of Music in New York.

Viona Sanjaya, piano (*Indonesia*)

Viona Natalie Sanjaya is an Indonesian-born pianist with expressive artistry. She recently graduated with honors from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in Singapore, where she earned her Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance with a full scholarship, studying under Prof. Ning An and Dr. Thomas Hecht. In recognition of her achievements, Viona received the Guy Hentsch Prize in Piano Performance. She is now pursuing a Master's degree at the Manhattan School of Music, under the guidance of the esteemed Yefim Bronfman.

Viona's performances have earned her several awards and accolades, including 2nd prize at the 2024 Indonesia International Piano Competition, 1st prize in the 2019 National JCoM Piano Competition, and winner of the YST Concerto Competition in 2022. She has had the opportunity to perform as a soloist with prominent orchestras, including the Jakarta Sinfonietta and the Orchestra of the Music Makers in Singapore. Along the way, she has studied with renowned pianists like Tamas Ungar, Steven Spooner, Rafael Luszczewski, and David Kaplan, among others.

Yixiu Yang, piano (*China*)

Yixiu Yang is a pianist born in Kunming, China, in 2006. She began studying piano at the age of seven with composer Nan Yang and later trained under Prof. Xiaolei Qian (Yunnan Arts University). In 2021, she became a student of Dr. Joshua Wright (Utah University), followed by studies with Prof. Gerrit Zitterbart (Hannover University of Music) from 2021 to 2024. That same year, she was admitted to Manhattan School of Music with scholarship, where she currently studies with Prof. Daniel Epstein. Over the past decade, Yixiu has performed in numerous concert venues worldwide. In August 2019, she shared the stage with Lang Lang at The Yunnan Grand Theatre. Her other notable performances include recitals at New York University, Trinity International Church, etc. Yixiu has received several prestigious awards, including second prize at the Saint-Petersburg Savshinsky International Music Competition, first prize at the England Best Liszt Performance Competition, fourth prize at the Poland Krystian Zmurek International Piano Competition, first prize at the Valencia Awards Music Competition, and six prize at WPTA Spain International Piano Competition. She has also benefited from guidance from esteemed musicians and educators, including Dr. He Shi, Duncan Glenday, Tonglin Yan, and Prof. Dario Marrini.



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