

Güher - Süher Pekinel



Reflecting the spirit of music with their extraordinary poetic expression, musicality, and achieved perfection, the Pekinels have been admired in international music circles for many years. In their performances, they concentrate on the pulse of music and also hold the distinction of being the only piano duo playing without eye contact. The artists gave their first concert at the age of six and their first live broadcast concert at the age of nine, accompanied by the Ankara Philharmonic Orchestra. Starting their education with Yvonne Loriod at the Paris Conservatory and August Leopolder at the Frankfurt University of Music, the Pekinels continued their soloist training at the Philadelphia Curtis Institute of Music, upon the invitation of Rudolf Serkin, and later at the Juilliard School of Music in New York with Adele Marcus. After working with legendary pianists such as Claudio Arrau and Leon Fleisher, they completed their soloist master's degrees simultaneously with honors at Juilliard and the Frankfurt University of Music. Following Herbert von Karajan's invitation to the Salzburg Festival in 1984, their international career rapidly advanced. In the ensuing period, they won acclaim by performing works composed and arranged especially for them by Leonard Bernstein, Krzysztof Penderecki, and Jacques Loussier. In their artistic careers, the Pekinels have collaborated under the baton of renowned conductors such as Zubin Mehta, Sir Colin Davis, Sir Neville Marriner, Marek Janowski, Michel Plasson, Christoph von Dohnanyi, and Paavo Järvi, with orchestras including the Berlin, Vienna, New York, London, Israel, and Munich Philharmonics, the Amsterdam Royal Concertgebouw, Orchestre National de France, Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra. Their extensive discography, released by major labels such as Deutsche Grammophon, CBS, Warner Classics, Chandos, Teldec, Arthaus Musik, and Unitel, includes recordings of the most important works of the two-piano repertoire. Their latest release, Treasure Box, serves primarily as an archive of the artists' live concert performances. Other international successes include the "Eurovision Concert," broadcast live from Vienna with the Vienna Philharmonic in 28 countries; extensive tours with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under Zubin Mehta; the "Take Bach" European tours with the Jacques Loussier Trio; the Lucerne Piano Festival; and Jacques Loussier concerts broadcast live on television in collaboration with Südwestrundfunk (SWR) and the BBC. Following their ZDF TV documentary, their second documentary Double Life, co-produced with ARD-ARTE, attracted great attention and was later acquired by Unitel. In 1970, after sharing the first prize as soloists at the German National Piano Competition, the duo went on to win numerous international first prizes in Germany, the USA, and Italy. In Turkey, in addition to the title of "State Artist," they have received an "Honorary Doctorate" from Boğaziçi University, the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts' Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Seveda-Cenap And Foundation's Gold Medal for their contributions to music education in Turkey. In 2024, the Pekinels were honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the International Classical Music Awards (ICMA). In 2021, the artists were awarded the Order of Merit by the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, in recognition of their international achievements and pioneering work in music education systems for children and youth. Beyond their musical career, since 2010 the Pekinels have spearheaded the establishment of three Music Education Systems in Turkey to improve the music education of professional musicians and children. Within the framework of the "Young Musicians on World Stages Foundation," 19 young musicians in the program have won first prizes at major international competitions; the system has also been awarded Turkey's "Best Social Responsibility Project Award." In 2001, within TEV / TEVİTÖL and in cooperation with conservatory educators, the Güher and Süher Pekinel Music Department was founded to foster the musical development of highly gifted children, and it continues to train students today. Another of their music education projects, the Carl Orff Music Education System by the German composer and educator, was implemented under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture. Selected teachers trained at the Salzburg Orff Institute subsequently trained teachers in Anatolia. This system continues today under the guidance of these teachers.

Prof. Markus Becker



‘When it comes to virtuosity, Markus Becker is unbeatable. A musical portraitist of the soul – with brains’. – Eleonore Büning, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Markus Becker is a pianist for all formats: his complete recording of Max Reger’s piano music is considered ‘one of the rare, truly great achievements in German pianism of the last half- century’ (Fonoforum), winning the annual German Record Critics’ Prize in 2002. His recent readings of select Haydn sonatas were rousingly received by the international press. But he also creates a sensation with the ‘freestyle’ of his masterly jazz improvisations. In the force field of jazz, avant-garde and allusions to the classics, he generates music ‘like dust particles in a beam of light: simply brilliant’ (Fidelity). Markus Becker has traversed the continents of his instrument; now he exploits the direct connections between them. Whether on the concert platform or in the studio, he sets standards in the concertos of Bach and Beethoven, Brahms and Gershwin, not to mention his rediscoveries of Pfitzner, Reger, Hindemith, Draeseke, Widor and Franz Schmidt. Besides his interest in little-known repertoire and works of orchestral richness, he indulges in the pleasure of poetic lightness and ingenious amalgams. His freestyle playing thrives on technical elegance and a supreme sense of form. Markus Becker has improvised at the piano since early childhood. His musical horizons were formed on international tours with the Hanover Boys’ Choir, in chamber recitals, jazz combos and pit bands. While studying with Karl-Heinz Kämmerling, the legendary professor at Hanover University of Music, he drew formative inspiration from a longstanding collaboration with Alfred Brendel. National and international awards soon followed, including a first prize at Hamburg’s International Brahms Competition in 1987. Becker is a frequent guest artist at the Ruhr Piano Festival, the Schleswig-Holstein Festival, the Bonn Beethovenfest and the Ludwigsburg Palace Festival. He performs with orchestras of the stature of the Berlin Philharmonic, Germany’s radio symphony orchestras and the BBC Welsh Orchestra. His partners at the conductor’s desk have included Michael Sanderling, Antonello Manacorda, Marcus Bosch, Steven Sloane and Claudio Abbado. Among the major artists with whom he cultivates chamber music are Albrecht Mayer, Igor Levit and Alban Gerhardt. Today he heads a class for pianists and ensembles as a professor at Hanover University of Music, Theatre and Media.

Liang Dai, A Bu Pianist / Composer



Born in Beijing in 1999, A Bu is the Frist Prize and Audience Prize winner of the 2015 Montreux Jazz Solo Piano Competition. At age 13, he was invited by jazz pianist Chick Corea to perform a duet at Corea's concert in Shanghai. That same year, he made his first jazz trio recording in Beijing. Prior to moving to New York, A Bu attended the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, where he received training as a classical pianist. He continued his classical music studies at the Juilliard School with distinguished pianist Hung-Kuan Chen and later pursued double-major in piano and composition at the Mannes School of Music, studying with the Chair of its piano department Pavlina Dokovska and American composer Lowell Liebermann. As soloist, A Bu has performed with the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra, Moscow Jazz Orchestra, Ningbo Symphony Orchestra, Nanchang Symphony Orchestra, Chengdu Symphony Orchestra, Suzhou Symphony Orchestra, Orchester Musikkollegium Winterthur, Stuttgart Philharmonic Orchestra and others. He has performed at Foundation Louis Vuitton, Tchaikovsky Concert Hall, FAZIOLI Concert Hall and many other concert venues. Across the continuum of classical and jazz, A Bu has collaborated with many distinguished artists such as Herbie Hancock, Till Brönner, Igor Butman, James Morrison and with pianist Hélène Mercier, conductor Tsung Yeh and many more. A Bu's debut compositions under Schott Music Piano Sonata No. 1 "Pinus" and Fantasie "Sleeping in a Dream" Op. 7 can be heard on his latest studio recording New Memories, released by German label WERGO. His other compositions include pieces written for solo piano, chamber and orchestra. Apart from his original music, A Bu frequently performs the music by Russian composer Nikolai Kapustin (1937-2020). As an advocate of the late composer, he gave the world premiere of Kapustin's Nocturne, Op. 16, Minuet Op. 21 and the New York premiere of his Piano Concerto No. 2, Op. 14. He is also the editor of the first Chinese edition of Kapustin's solo piano works, published by Shanghai Music Publishing House in 2022. A Bu is the recipient of the 2019 Ruhr Piano Festival Scholarship, recommended by Grammy-award winning pianist and composer Michel Camilo. He is also a laureate of Artemisia Foundation's 2024-2025 season and its composer-in-residence.

Alpay Jan İnkilap / Violin



Alpay Jan İnkilap was born in 2001 in Ankara and began his violin education in 2007 at the Bilkent University Primary School of Music. He completed his high school education at The Purcell School for Young Musicians in London, where he studied in the class of Prof. Itzhak Rashkovsky, having been accepted in 2017.

During his years in London, İnkilap had the opportunity to perform several recitals at the Royal College of Music and played Glazunov's Violin Concerto with the Welwyn Garden City Orchestra under the baton of Dr. James Ross. In 2019, he was accepted into the class of Prof. Michaela Martin at the Barenboim-Said Akademie in Berlin, where he earned a full scholarship to pursue his undergraduate studies. During this time, he performed at the renowned Pierre Boulez Saal with prominent ensembles such as Alte Musik für Berlin and Boulez Ensemble. He was also accepted into the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, where he had the opportunity to work with world-renowned conductor Daniel Barenboim.

He has received several awards in national and international competitions, including:

- 1st Prize at the 5th Glden Turalı National Violin Competition (Turkey),
- 2nd Prize at the 55th Kocian International Violin Competition (Czech Republic),
- 3rd Prize at the 7th International Bravo Violin Competition (Belgium)

As a soloist, İnkilap has performed with various orchestras such as the Bilkent Youth Symphony Orchestra, Ankara Philharmonic Orchestra, Bolu İzzet Baysal University Youth Orchestra, Bařkent Philharmonic Orchestra, and Orkestra Akademik Bařkent.

In 2022, he was selected to perform a recital as part of İř Sanat's "Shining Stars" concert series, supported by İř Bankası, and was awarded the Meriç Soylu Prize within the same program.

He has participated in masterclasses with leading musicians including:

Itzhak Rashkovsky, Paul Roczek, Vadim Gluzman, and Qian Zhou at the Keshet Eilon Music Center Summer Mastercourse (Israel);

Emmanuel Pahud, Michael Barenboim, Michael Wendeborg, Krzysztof Chorzelski, and Rainer Honeck in Germany.

Alexander Vinnitski, Cihat Ařkin, Mintcho Mintchev, and Lutsia Ibragimova at Bilkent Violin Days (Turkey);

Having successfully completed his undergraduate studies at the Barenboim-Said Akademie in 2024, Alpay Jan İnkilap is currently continuing his master's degree at the same institution.

Eda Seviniş



Eda Seviniş was born in 2001 in Ankara, Turkey, and began her musical journey at the age of five through the early music education program at the Faculty of Music and Performing Arts at Bilkent University.

She continued her piano studies with Ayşe Kaptan and Deren Eryılmaz after successfully passing the entrance exams for primary school. From 2011 to 2019, she studied with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zerin Rasul and graduated as the top student of her class from Bilkent High School of Music.

A passionate chamber musician, Seviniş was among the winning groups of the 2020 Lillian Fuchs Chamber Music Competition, performing at Greenfield Hall. During her high school years, she formed the Kiana Trio, which won First Prize at the 1st Eğirdir Chamber Music Competition and Third Prize at the 3rd Mersin AKOB Chamber Music Competition. The trio performed in various concerts and events. In 2021, Seviniş was awarded First Prize in her category at the International Robert Schumann Piano Competition Düsseldorf. After three rounds, she performed in the final concert at Robert-Schumann-Saal with the Asasello Quartet in a chamber music setting. Earlier, she received the "Special Distinction Award" at the 2nd Vienna International Music Competition, and was a finalist in the 1st International "Merci, Maestro!" Piano Competition held in Brussels.

Seviniş has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in numerous concert venues and music festivals across Europe, New York, and Turkey. One of her recent performances took place at the historic Neuenburg Castle in Germany.

She has appeared in prestigious festivals such as: Chetham's International Summer Festival for Pianists (UK), Princeton University Golandsky Institute Summer Symposium (USA), Gümüşlük Piano Festival, Antalya Piano Festival, Cappadocia Music Festival, Bilkent Music Days.

She has participated in masterclasses with internationally renowned pianists including:

Stanislav Ioudenitch, Ilya Itin, Marcella Crudeli, Lydia Artymiw, Kemal Gekić, Jean-Bernard Pommier, Xak Bjerken, Jura Margulis, Mauricio Vallina, Edna Golandsky.

Since 2019, Eda Seviniş has been a scholarship recipient of the "Young Musicians on World Stages" program led by Güher & Süher Pekinel.

After completing her three years of undergraduate studies at the Manhattan School of Music in New York under Dr. Marc Silverman, Head of the Piano Department, with a rare and prestigious scholarship, she is currently pursuing her master's degree at the Barenboim-Said Academy in Berlin, studying with the renowned pianist Sir Andrés Schiff.

Eden Chen



Pianist Eden Chen has appeared in concert halls worldwide, “enthraling audiences with fluid performances and fingers that dance upon, rather than play, the piano” (Leeds Living). Recognized internationally by classical music’s premier institutions, Eden focuses his distinguished musicianship on synthesizing unexpected wonder from the scattered cultural influences of today’s multipolar world.

Eden’s 2025-26 season highlight is his orchestral debut performing Liszt’s Malediction at Carnegie Hall with the Chamber Orchestra of New York. In 2024-25, Saudi Arabia’s Minister of Culture, Prince Bader Al Saud and CAMI Music invite Eden to a month-long residency in Riyadh, where he performs and teaches piano to students, including a prince of the royal family, and advises on the kingdom’s creation of its first nationwide music education program. He also returns as Artist-in-Residence at the Banff Centre, and performs in Geneva and Easton, presented by Gabriela Montero. That season, Eden was awarded the Belgian American Educational Foundation Fellowship to the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel, and performed as finalist for Carnegie Hall’s Ensemble Connect and quarterfinalist in the ongoing Honens International Piano Competition. In 2023-24, Eden presented a program on the transmutation of Baroque elements into Russian romanticism in a 9-city solo recital tour of China. He has appeared at Wigmore Hall and multiple times at Stern Auditorium, Pritzker Pavilion, and Weill Recital Hall.

Eden’s creative work is championed by exemplary institutions and mentors. Under Hung-Kuan Chen, Eden earned both Master and Bachelor of Music degrees from The Juilliard School, graduating with the Juilliard Career Advancement Fellowship, its largest Commencement prize. This accolade is joined by past achievements as sole winner of the 2024 Respighi Prize and 2023 New York Concert Artists International Auditions. He is an alum of the Lang Lang International Music Foundation and has been guest artist at the Leeds International Piano Competition’s Festival, the Banff Centre, and the Grammy Salute to Classical.

Eden’s notable collaborations include recording with Lang Lang for Deutsche Grammophon and performing with him at JBLFest, The City of Shenzhen’s Exposition in New York, and the Swiss Alps Classics series in Andermatt. Eden’s projects draw on his deep love for all human culture, combining its fragments to renew creativity and curiosity for a richer life in his audiences. His upcoming album is inspired by science fiction film Solaris and explores memory through Ravel’s Le Tombeau de Couperin and original Ryuichi Sakamoto arrangements. Eden curated 5 poems by Bert Meyers for the songs “Lullaby” and “Signature” by pianist/composer A Bu, shining light on human agency and the resilience of nature in the face of technological upheaval and feelings of inevitable decay. He premiered these songs with pianist/soprano Chelsea Guo at Merkin Hall and Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In “Paradise Lost,” Eden wove the mythic epic with Liszt’s Sonata and surrealist art by Pablo Auladell, invigorating the story of the Fall of Man with cinematic depth that spans diabolical despair and ecstatic hope.

Community leadership supplements Eden’s artistic ethos, energizing people to create the conditions for vibrant lives in their communities. He is the founder and executive director of Goldfinch, a nonprofit featured by The Violin Channel for bringing healthcare benefits to classical musicians including winners of the Leeds and Chopin competitions. Eden has shared music with thousands of schoolchildren, including an audience of 1,200 in the Leeds Town Hall, and two benefit concerts in Zhongshan, China. For designing performances for senior homes and addiction rehabilitation centers, Eden received the Gluck Community Service Fellowship. In his studies, Eden was supported by seven scholarships including the Gina Bachauer Grant, and won two full scholarships to the Aspen Music Festival and School. Eden is grateful for the mentorship of Gabriela Montero through her Piano Lab, Tema Blackstone, Jerome Lowenthal, Rufus Choi, Ory Shihor, and Elena Makarova.

Naz İrem Türkmen



Naz İrem Türkmen was born in 2006. Currently she pursues her violin studies with Prof. Paul Roczek at the Mozarteum University and Prof. Sonja Korkeala at Hochschule für Musik und Theater München.

She started her violin education at Istanbul State Conservatory with Aslı Erdal. She has attended the masterclasses of Prof. Boris Kuschnir, Prof. Dora Schwarzberg, Kirill Trousov, Itzhak Rashovsky, Alexander Vinnitsky, Nora Chastain and Ellen Jewett. She studied with Muhammedjan Turdiev, Alexandra Soumm, Dania Kainova, and Prof. Ceyda Ergin.

She has won several first prizes at International Violin competitions including “Grand Prize” & “Special Prize for Exceptional Artists Personality” at Odessa International Violin Competition at 2018 Ukraine, first prize at 12th Grumiaux International Competition for Young Violinists” at 2019 Belgium, first prize at 2nd Ilona Feher International Violin Competition in Budapest, second prize at Ohrid Pearls International Competition at 2022 Ohrid. She has been chosen between 11 musicians for Colluvio Chamber Music Academy at 2023 and 2024. She has given chamber music concerts at 6 different countries and 8 different cities with this chamber music group during years 2023 and 2024.

She is a part of “Young Musicians on World Stages“ system initiated and carried out by Güher & Süher Pekinel.

She continues her concerts in Turkey with the most important Orchestras such as İzmir State Symphony Orchestra, Cemal Reşit Rey Orchestra, Eskişehir State Symphony Orchestra, İstanbul State Ballet and Opera, El Ele Music Symphony Orchestra and Borusan Philharmonic Orchestra in distinguished Concert Halls, parallel to her education. She played as a soloist at Stars and Rising Stars festival in Munich in 2023.

She is a tutor at <https://www.caretoshare.info/musictutors> foundation.

Elvin Hoxha Ganiyev



Elvin Hoxha Ganiyev is a solo concert violinist with a broad and diverse repertoire who holds a Konzertexamen degree from Folkwang Universität der Künste in Essen, Germany, and a Master's Degree from Hochschule für Musik Theater und Medien Hannover where he studied with Professor Krzysztof Wegrzyn, and also a Bachelor's Degree from Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía in Spain, from the class of Professor Zakhar Bron.

Elvin was born in 1997 into a family of esteemed musicians and started playing the violin when he was five years old. He was admitted to the Zurich Conservatory Young Student program. At the age of 8, he gave his first orchestral concert with his grandfather, Server Ganiyev, and continued his studies under Ganiyev's tutelage at Bilkent University Music Preparatory School. Since the age of 10, when Elvin made his debut with Moscow Virtuosi under the baton of Vladimir Spivakov at the Kremlin Palace, he has always performed with renowned conductors and esteemed orchestras in prominent concert halls and prestigious international festivals throughout the world.

Elvin has won numerous awards and honors at prestigious international competitions. In 2023, he won 2nd place at the prestigious Karol Szymanowski International Music Competition. He is the Semi-finalist and the winner of the special iPalpiti Prize at the 2021 George Enescu International Violin Competition. The same year, he was also awarded the Public Prize at the International Jascha Heifetz Violin Competition, where he was a semifinalist. Elvin is also the laureate of many other reputable international music competitions, including the David Oistrakh Violin Competition, Lipinski-Wieniawski Competition for Young Musicians, Golden Medal Berliner International Music Competition, and Vienna International Music Competition, to name a few.

He released a debut album in 2019, "Say's 1001 Nights in the Harem Violin Concerto," and a single in 2020, "Chausson, Poème Op.25," on digital music platforms. He recorded with LGT Young Soloists for the "Italian Journey" album under RCA Red Seal/Sony Music Switzerland. His album, "Voyages, Chapter Istanbul," where he performed Cem Esen's and Fazıl Say's Violin Sonatas, was released in 2021. Elvin collaborated with the contemporary composer Esen on two singles, "Violin Sonatine Op.34" and "Moment Musical Op. 32." He released his recent album "Ysaÿe 6 Sonatas for Solo Violin" with Solo Musica in 2024, which was received with great acclaim. He is currently recording his upcoming album to be released in 2025.

Elvin Hoxha Ganiyev is supported by the ÇEV Contemporary Education Foundation of Turkey Young Talents Project. Elvin performs on a 1715 Giuseppe Guarneri "filius Andreae" violin with an Eugène Sartory bow on a generous grant from the Haydar Aliyev Foundation.

Can Saraç



Can Saraç was born in Istanbul in August 2007, and received his first piano lessons at the age of five. In 2012, he passed the exams, and attended Istanbul University State Conservatory until 2023. In June 2021, he was accepted to the Hochschule für Musik und Theater München Pre-College program for the highly gifted students, where he continues his studies with Prof. Michael Schäfer. He also continues his piano studies with Prof. Gokhan Aybulus in Istanbul.

Can is the recipient of International Classical Music Awards' (ICMA) 2025 Discovery Award.

In 2023, Can was invited as a Festival Artist to Cliburn Junior, one of the most prestigious piano events in the world that is held every four years in Texas, USA.

He is a scholarship holder of the Liechtenstein International Music Academy and regularly takes part in the intensive weeks and activities that take place there. He has attended masterclasses by renowned and prominent pianists including Pavel Gililov, Janina Fialkowska, Michel Beroff, Andrea Bonatta, and Ludmil Angelov among many others.

As the youngest pianist invited to Pianissimo Concerts, he performed solo recitals at The Hermitage State Museum, St. Petersburg, and at the GES-2 House of Culture, Moscow in August 2022.

Can has already won several awards for solo and duo performances at national and international competitions in Germany, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Turkey, Italy, Spain, and Hungary. Among others, he won 1st prize at "Ohrid Pearls" Int. Piano Comp. 2018, Macedonia both solo and duo piano performance. In 2019 Can won the 1st prize at the Int. Rhapsody Piano Comp. in Adana, Turkey.

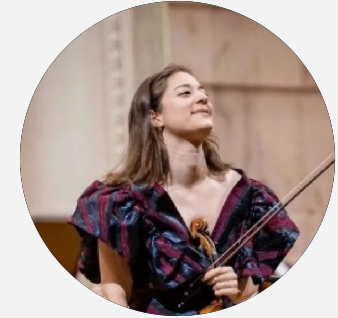
In October 2023, Can participated in the Piano Academy Eppan held in Italy and won the first prize, becoming the youngest pianist to win the "Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli" Prize.

In May 2022, he performed at Liederhalle Stuttgart, Germany in a charity organisation of Association for Supporting Contemporary Life (ÇYDD), for the benefit of young girls' education. In 2023, he performed at ENKA Sanat as part of ENKA Stage Project, at İş Sanat as part of "Shining Stars" program, and gave a solo recital in Sofia Polish Institute Bulgaria.

In 2024, he performed Beethoven's 2nd Concerto at the Mariinsky Theatre with the Mariinsky Orchestra in St. Petersburg and gave a solo concert in historical Copacabana Palace Theatre in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

Can has taken part at several international festivals, including GlafsJordens Winter Festival and Academy in Sweden, Feuerwerk Piano Academy in Germany, the 18th International Gumusluk Festival Academy in Bodrum, Turkey, 23. Antalya International Piano Festival, Piano Extravaganza Festival in Bulgaria. Can performed as a soloist and in chamber music ensembles in several venues such as Cemal Reşit Rey Concert Hall Istanbul, Presidential Symphony Orchestra Hall Ankara, Schaaner SAL/Liechtenstein, Admiralspalast Berlin, Germany.

Veriko Tchumburidze



Since winning the 2016 International Henryk Wieniawski Violin Competition at the age of 20, Veriko Tchumburidze has built a reputation as a captivating soloist, chamber musician and recording artist. “She is a breath of future,” said Andrzej Wituski, the competition’s director, “She brings us closer to the world of her own imagination”. Andante, Turkey’s leading classical music magazine named her the country’s Best Emerging Musician.

Born into a Georgian family in Adana, southern Turkey, Veriko Tchumburidze initially trained at Mersin University State Conservatory with Selahattin Yunkus and Lily Tchumburidze. In 2010 she has started to study in with Dora Schwarzberg at the MDW in Vienna as a scholar of the Young Musicians on World Stages (YMWS) project. Between 2015-2022, she studied at Prof. Ana Chumachenko's class and since 2022 she continues her second master’s degree studies in chamber music with the Dirk Mommertz and Raphael Merlin at the Munich’s Musikhochschule. She has also participated in the masterclasses of Albert Markov, Shlomo Mintz, and Igor Ozim, in the Seiji Ozawa Academy Masterclass and, also in Switzerland, the Verbier Festival Academy. In the 2025/26 season, Veriko Tchumburidze makes the Polish debut of Wynton Marsalis’ Violin Concerto with the Arthur Rubinstein Philharmonic Orchestra under Pawel Przytocki. She also debuts at Madrid’s Auditorio Nacional, performing Respighi’s Concerto Gregoriano. Additionally, she returns to NOSPR Katowice for Kancheli’s Chiaroscuro with Andrey Boreyko. She appears for the first time at Schiermonnikoog Festival, Wonderfeel Festival, Beethovenfest Bonn and Europäische Woche Passau, while returning to the Istanbul International Music Festival and Storioni Festival. This season also features the world premieres of two works dedicated to her: Kaan Bulak’s Solo Violin Sonata No. 2 and Aris Alexander Blettenberg’s Byzantine Rhapsody. Tchumburidze has appeared with the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony, NMF Wroclaw, Lahti Symphony and Sinfonia Varsovia, Borusan Philharmonic Orchestra (opening the Istanbul Music Festival), Brandenburgisches Staatsorchester Frankfurt, Lahti Symphony, Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra, Mozarteumorchester Salzburg, Musikkollegium Winterthur, as well as the Munich Chamber and Zurich Chamber Orchestra. She has collaborated with such conductors as Łukasz Borowicz, Ruben Gazarian, Sascha Goetzl, Howard Griffiths, Gemma New, Michael Sanderling, Andrey Boreyko, Aziz Shokhakimov and Dima Slobodeniouk. Her festival engagements have included the Beethoven Easter Festival, Gstaad Menuhin Festival & Academy, Olympus Musical Festival, Rosendal Festival and Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, performing with, among others, Leif Ove Andsnes, Nicholas Angelich, Lisa Batiashvili, Gérard Caussé, Sol Gabetta, Quatuor Ebene, Clemens Hagen, Maxim Vengerov and Tabea Zimmermann. As a keen exponent of chamber music, she partners in recital with Pianists Ketevan Sepashvili and Mamikon Nakhapetov and was formerly a member of Trio Arte, a piano trio which in 2016 won first prize at the Pietro Argento International Music Competition in Gioia del Colle, Italy. 2016 also brought the world premiere at the Istanbul Music Festival of Ludus Modalis, a work dedicated to Trio Arte by the distinguished Turkish composer Özkan Manav. Since 2022, she is a member of Trio Vecando, a piano trio. Veriko Tchumburidze recorded Anton Wranitzky’s Violin Concerto in C for Sony Classical with the Munich Chamber Orchestra and conductor Howard Griffiths. Her recording on the Klanglogo label of John Williams’ music for the film Schindler’s List with Howard Griffiths conducting the Brandenburgisches Staatsorchester Frankfurt led to a headlining appearance, under the aegis of the Orpheum Musik Stiftung, at the opening concert of the 2016 Zurich Film Festival at the Swiss city’s opera house. Since 2016 Veriko Tchumburidze has played a Giambattista Guadagnini violin, made in Milan in 1756 and generously loaned by Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben.

Taisiia Lavrova



Taisiia Lavrova, born in 1998, is a pianist from Saint-Petersburg, Russia. She began playing piano at the age of five and made her orchestral debut with the State St. Petersburg Academic Symphony Orchestra in 2009, performing a concerto by J.S. Bach.

She graduated from the N.A.Rimsky-Korsakov College in 2017 and continued her studies with Prof. Oleg Malov at the St.Petersburg State Conservatory majoring in piano solo performance.

After completing her Special degree in 2022 with distinction, she began a postgraduate course as an assistant in a chamber music class with Prof. Inga Dzektsler. Taisiia has frequently given solo recitals at various concert venues in her home country and won numerous national and international competitions, both as a soloist and as a member of chamber music ensembles.

Taisiia also took part in different projects as a collaborative pianist. During the '21-22 season, she worked in the student opera production of G.Puccini's "Suor Angelica" in St.Petersburg.

In 2022 she took part as an accompanist at the All-Russian Cello Competition in Ufa, Russia. Since 2024 Taisiia studies piano chamber music with Prof. Markus Becker at the Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover, Germany. Alongside her interest in chamber music repertoire, she is currently working on vocal repertoire in the Lied class of Prof. Jan Philip Schulze and is also studying historical keyboard instruments with Prof. Zvi Meniker.

In 2025 she has taken part in different projects and festivals, including Villa Musica Rheinland-Pfalz Chamber Music Academy, Festival "Her hits" featuring music by female composers and organized by HMTM Hannover and the performance of G.F.Haas's "11.000 Saiten" at the Kunstfestspiele Herrenhausen in Hannover. Taisiia's repertoire includes numerous solo and chamber music works from various stylistic periods, ranging from Baroque to modern music.

Umut Sađlam



Born in Ankara in 1998, Umut Sađlam began his cello studies in 2009 at Hacettepe University Ankara State Conservatory under Tufan Tahir Tolga. From 2014 to 2016, he continued his education with Dilbađ Tokay at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University Istanbul State Conservatory. In 2016, he was awarded a scholarship to study at the Barenboim–Said Akademie in Berlin, graduating in 2020 from the class of Prof. Frans Helmerson. He completed his master’s degree in 2024 at the Hochschule für Musik “Hanns Eisler” Berlin under Prof. Claudio Bohorquez. Sađlam has taken part in prestigious festivals and academies including Aurora Music Festival, Kronberg Cello Academy, Istanbul Music Festival, Ayvalık International Music Academy, Krzyżowa Music Festival, Ysaÿe’s Knokke Music Festival, and Villa Musica. He has had the opportunity to study and perform with highly respected musicians such as Daniel Barenboim, Sir András Schiff, Steven Isserlis, Gary Hoffman, Tabea Zimmermann, Daniel Müller-Schott, Peter Bruns, Maria Kliegel, Jens Peter Maintz, and Alexander Rudin. From September 2017 to May 2022, Sađlam was supported by an instrument scholarship under Güher & Süher Pekinel’s “Young Musicians on World Stages” project, during which time he performed numerous solo and chamber music concerts on a 1801 Nicolas Lupot cello. As a soloist, he has performed with the Bilkent Symphony Orchestra, Presidential Symphony Orchestra of Turkey, Bursa, Çukurova, İzmir, and Istanbul State Symphony Orchestras, as well as the Orchestre des Jeunes du CRR de Paris.

In 2022, he received the Aydın Gün Encouragement Award, presented by the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (IKSV), which recognizes promising young classical musicians.

His competition accolades include:

- 1st Prize – 2015 Young Virtuosos Competition, Italy
- 2nd Prize – 2015 International German and Austrian Music Competition, Bulgaria
- 1st Prize – 2017 International Young Talents Competition, Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra
- 1st Prize & Meriç Soylu Special Award – İş Sanat “Shining Stars” series
- 1st Prize (Solo Category) – 2018 Gaetano Zinetti Music Competition, Italy
- 1st Prize – 2018 “Tremplin” International Cello Competition, France
- 1st Prize & Special Award for Commissioned Work – 2023 1st National Dođan Cangal Cello Competition

Since 2018, he has participated in numerous tours with the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, conducted by Daniel Barenboim, and has also performed with ensembles such as Konzerthaus Berlin, Kammerakademie Potsdam, MDR Leipzig Radio Symphony Orchestra, and Tekfen Philharmonic Orchestra. During the 2019/2020 season, he was one of six cellists selected to join Gautier Capuçon’s “Classe d’excellence de Violoncelle” at the Louis Vuitton Foundation in Paris. From 2022 to 2024, he was awarded the Borusan Kocabiyık Foundation Music Scholarship and was actively supported by the foundation throughout this period. As the founder of the Viatores Quartet, he continues his chamber music master’s studies at the Hochschule für Musik Frankfurt with Prof. Tabea Zimmermann and at the Hochschule für Musik Hannover with Prof. Oliver Wille. With the quartet, he has won: 1st Prize and the “Freunde Junge Musiker Preis” at the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy University Competition (2024) 2nd Prize at the Irene Steels-Wilsing String Quartet Competition of Heidelberger Frühling (2025) Two Special Prizes at the Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition. Umut Sađlam currently performs on a 1914 George Winterling cello crafted in Hamburg.

Arseniy Gusev



Pianist and composer Arseniy Gusev was born in St. Petersburg in 1998 and has been studying music since the age of five. In 2015, he went to the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. In 2017, he graduated with honors from the Specialized Music School of the St. Petersburg Rimsky-Korsakov State Conservatory, and afterwards studied at the St. Petersburg Conservatory. In 2018, he moved to the US, in 2022, received his bachelor's degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, and in 2024, finished his master's program at the Yale School of Music as a composer. He now continues his studies at the Juilliard School as a pianist. Sergei Babayan, Keith Fitch, Chris Theofanidis, and David Lang are among his teachers. Gusev's compositions present a colorful variety of styles and genres, some of which are solo, collaborative, symphonic, ballet, and opera.

He actively performs in the US and abroad, and has given solo concerts in Austria, Belgium, Italy, Slovakia, Russia, and Germany. His compositions are performed in Mariinsky Theater, Carnegie Hall, Konzerthaus Dortmund, St. Petersburg Philharmonic and other major venues. He collaborated with such conductors as Arkady Steinluht, Dmitry Vasiliev, Robert Carter Austin, Alexander Titov, Ilya Derbilov, Mikhail Golikov, and Mikhail Mosenkov, and performed together with such musicians as Jaime Laredo, Sharon Robinson, Olga Kaler, and Anthony Roth Costanzo. Arseniy participated in master classes of Garrick Ohlsson, Samuel Adler, Andrew Norman, Joan Tower, Dmitry Bashkirov, Grigory Gruzman, Jerome Rose, Alexander Mndoyants, Nina Lelchuk, and others.

Arseniy is a laureate of many prestigious competitions, such as the Dorothy McKenzie Artist Award, Cleveland Piano Virtu(al)oso Competition, Singapore International Piano Competition, Three Arts Piano Competition, Cleveland Composers Guild Contest, "Another Space" Composition Competition, International Gavrilin Competition, International Competition "Performer-Composer", and others.

As of 2024, two solo piano albums by Arseniy were published: "Enfleurance" (Etymology Classics, 2023), and "Musical Offering" (Steinway&Sons, 2024). Arseniy has an exclusive contract with "Kompozitor" publisher house. Among recently published works are 24 Postludes (2018) and 3 Toccatas (2020).

Dongping Wang



Dongping Wang was born in 2002 in Qingdao, China, and began playing the piano at the age of five. He completed his Bachelor's degree in 2024 with top honors under Prof. Igor Levit at the Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover (HMTMH) in Germany. Since then, he has been pursuing his Master's degree with Prof. Markus Becker at the same institution.

Dongping Wang is a prize winner of several international competitions. Among others, he won first prize at the 1st U-Play Piano Competition in Shanghai in 2015 and at the International Zhongsin Music Competition in Singapore in 2017. In 2022, he was awarded the EMCY Prize as the best participant under 25 at the 15th PIANALE International Academy & Competition in Fulda, as well as the Steingraber & Söhne Special Prize, which included an invitation for a solo recital in Bayreuth in July 2023.

His solo performances have taken him to numerous cities across China and Europe. At just 14, he performed with great success at the Qingdao Grand Theatre in front of over 1,000 listeners. Highlights of his performances include a recital series featuring Liszt's complete Transcendental Etudes in China, Germany, and the Netherlands, and a four-hand concert series of all Brahms's symphonies in China in 2023. In February 2024, he made his debut at the Heidelberger Frühling music festival, collaborating with artists such as Veronika Eberle, Adrien La Marca, and Quirine Viersen.

Dongping Wang is also the recipient of numerous scholarships and prizes supporting young artists. In 2022, he was awarded a scholarship by Yehudi Menuhin Live Music Now Hannover, in 2024 he was honored with the Frau Dr. Gerda Rohde Prize for the Promotion of Young Musical Talents, and in 2025 he received the Gundlach Musikpreis Hannover. Since 2021, Dongping Wang has also been studying historical keyboard instruments with Prof. Zvi Meniker and has regularly performed at the university's concert series "Alte Musik zur Monatsmitte."

Jamal Aliyev



Born in Baku, Azerbaijan in 1993, Jamal studied at the Yehudi Menuhin School and at the Royal College of Music with Thomas Carroll, where he embarks on his Master's this autumn.

Lauded as “one of the greatest cellists of his generation” by acclaimed pianist Fazil Say, and with an “enviable technique and a rich broad palette” by Classical Music Magazine, Jamal Aliyev is captivating audiences all over the world and rapidly rising to the top of his profession. Being in high demand, he has made numerous appearances in North and South America, to the Far East in China, Hong Kong and Singapore and all throughout Europe.

In 2017, he made his solo debut at the prestigious BBC Proms with the BBC Concert Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall performing for the celebrated film music composer John Williams' 85th Birthday. In the same year he won the 'Arts Club – Sir Karl Jenkins Music Award' and released his debut CD, 'Russian Masters', with pianist Anna Fedorova for Champs Hill Records to wide critical acclaim.

During the 2021/22 season Jamal toured with Sir Karl Jenkins and the London Concert Orchestra in the Royal Festival Hall (London), St. David's (Cardiff), CBSO Center (Birmingham), Bridgewater Hall (Manchester) and the Royal Concert Hall (Nottingham).

Jamal Aliyev gave the Turkish premiere of Fazil Say's cello concerto 'Shahmaran' at the Volkswagen Arena – Istanbul, in December and will be touring together as a duo in 2022-23.

Jamal has performed extensively internationally, highlights including solo appearances with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra (broadcast by Radio 3), the Philharmonia Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall, the Russian National Orchestra at the Grand Hall of Moscow Conservatory, Presidential Symphony Orchestra in Turkey, CBSO at the Royal Albert Hall, Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra in Venezuela and Tomsk Philharmonia at the Trans-Siberian Festival. In 2021 he was featured as one of Classic FM's '30 of the most brilliant young classical musicians playing today'.

“His extremely successful Hong Kong debut in 2022 was “jaw-dropping” and left audiences “dazzled” for both his solo recital for Premiere Performances and his appearance with the Hong Kong Sinfonietta.”

In 2022 Season Jamal Aliyev debuts in Hong Kong, Australia, and the USA, records albums with Turkish pianist and composer Fazil Say and the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra conducted by Howard Griffiths. In September of the 2022/23 season, his duo album 'Tree of Life' with Fazil Say was released and he will be recording Say's 'Shahmaran' concerto with the Deutsche Symphony Orchestra in Berlin.

Immensely popular in Turkey, he returns to give recitals with Say, and to perform concertos by Haydn and Shostakovich with the Istanbul, Izmir, Bursa, CSO, Eskisehir and Mersin Symphony Orchestras. Furthermore, collaborating with local musicians using traditional Turkish instruments is something that Jamal believes in very strongly and relishes doing. He has promoted this through the online release of traditional folk and classical music performances. Jamal Aliyev performs on a 1700 Giuseppe Guarneri “filius Andreae” cello.