

U3A Classical Music Lovers B

THE YOUNG ONES

A presentation by Maureen Tatler

11 September 2025

Images removed for copyright reasons

Yuja Wang (My favourite pianist)
Through the years - ages 8 to 36

Born in Beijing, she began learning piano there at age six, and went on to study at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing and the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

She is celebrated for her charismatic artistry, emotional honesty and captivating stage presence. She has performed with the world's most venerated conductors, musicians and ensembles, and is renowned not only for her virtuosity, but her spontaneous and lively performances, famously telling the New York Times

'I firmly believe every program should have its own life, and be a representation of how I feel at the moment'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eX1y7o5Fu1Y>

Himari Yoshimura, 7.

Himari is a Japanese violinist, born in 2011, who began playing at the age of three and made her professional debut at six. She is considered a “once-in-a-generation talent” and has gained international recognition for her exceptional technique and expressiveness.

She studies at the Curtis Institute of Music under Ida Kavafian and has won numerous international competitions. She is also the youngest Asian soloist to perform with the Berliner Philharmoniker in a subscription concert.

The *International Grumiaux Competition for Young Violinists* is held annually and takes place at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels in Belgium.

She has been named one of Classic FM’s “30 Under 30”— a prestigious list highlighting rising stars who are shaping the future of classical music

Here she is 7, and plays Paganini’s - Cantabile. 4.00.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7woflvzt2eo>

Sheku Kanneh-Mason, 19.

Royal wedding cellist: Teenaged musician wows guests

In 2018 he was 19, from Nottingham in England, and was invited to play at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. Watched by two billion people worldwide, he plays a 1700 **Matteo Goffriller cello** which is on indefinite loan to him.

Sheku is a graduate of London's **Royal Academy of Music** and in May 2022 was appointed as the Academy's first *Menuhin Visiting Professor of Performance Mentoring*.

In 2024 he accepted the role of patron of *UK Music Masters* and remains an ambassador for the *Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation* and *Future Talent*.

Sheku received an MBE in the 2020 New Year's Honours List.

The playlist: Sicilienne by Maria Theresia von Paradis, Après un Rêve by Gabriel Fauré, and Ave Maria by Schubert. 9.24.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TeDB27cq3fE>

Jonah Ho, 5.

Johan started playing piano at 3 yrs old. His first video was uploaded to YouTube when he was 5 years old.

Here he is playing:

Fantasie Impromptu in C-sharp Minor Op.66 of Chopin. 5.25.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQeC5i9c09M>

The video caught the attention of people around the world who were flabbergasted by the sheer talent on display from such a young person. Since he began uploading videos he has amassed over 7 million views across all of his videos.

https://www.youtube.com/@jonah_ho

Maria Gmyrek – Saxophone. 15.

Stanisław Moniuszko School of Music Orchestra, Bielsko Biała, Poland. 2019.

In 2015, 15 year old Maria received a scholarship from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, preceded by a "Young Poland" scholarship a year earlier.

“This piece is beautiful and is exactly what Adolphe Sax, the inventor of the saxophone, intended for this instrument. It finally proves the saxophone can be just as good as any other instrument in the orchestra and gives the saxophone the spotlight it deserves.”

Pequena Czarda by Pedro Iturralde. 8.30.

(Little Czarda by Pedro Iturralde)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yc80ghR7Gw>

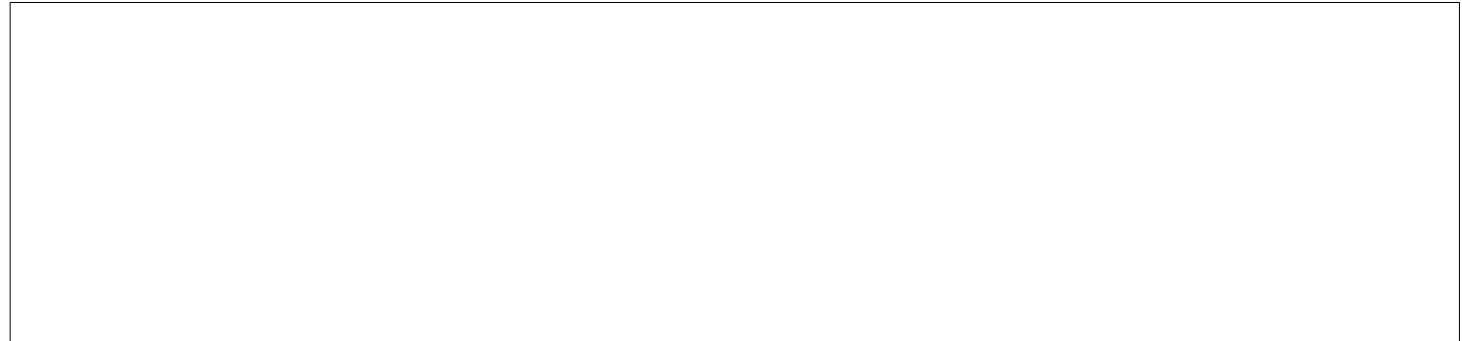
**Kamerton Orchestra, Koszalin Music School
Malgorzata Kobierska, conductor, 2015.**

***Polish Nationwide Music Schools'
Symphonic Orchestras Competition 2014***

Saint-Saëns – Dance Macabre Dance of Death Op.40. 8.22.

The Danse Macabre originated in 13th-century poetry and gained prominence in the visual arts following the Black Death pandemic in the mid-14th century. It is expressed through various forms, including drama, poetry, music, and visual arts like murals and woodcuts. The theme often features skeletons dancing and playing musical instruments, drawing the living figures into the procession.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNMzBnuBC6Y>



Polish Youth Symphony Orchestra

Maciej Tomaszewicz – conductor, 2016.

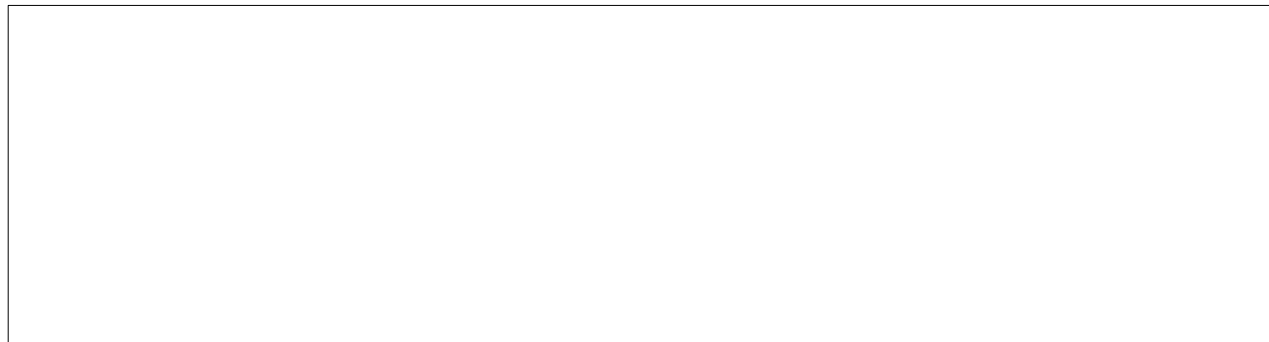
***Special Winners Concert of 3rd Polish Nationwide Music Schools'
Symphonic Orchestras Competition***

Saint-Saëns – Bacchanale from Samson and Delilah. 8.45.

This is a celebratory scene where Delilah and other women dance provocatively to seduce Samson, ultimately leading to his capture and downfall.

The piece is characterised by its rich orchestral textures, featuring prominent percussion, low woodwinds, and brass, all contributing to its dramatic and captivating sound.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdITMksls0Y>

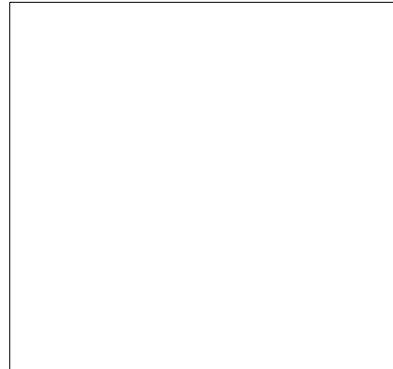


Sacha Jorba-Wu, 10.

A young prodigy violinist shocks the whole restaurant ... and is joined by professional opera singer **Sone** and pianist **Julien Cohen** to give a spontaneous concert in a restaurant in Paris – **10.21**:

- Summer from 4 Seasons by Antonio Vivaldi
- Carmen Opera (Habanera aria) by Georges Bizet
- Czardas by Vittorio Monti
- Ave Maria by Franz Schubert
- Zigeunerweisen (Gipsy Airs) by Pablo de Sarasate

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpWNDWfkQJM>



<https://kingspeakmusiccompetition.com>

Elisey Mysin, 6.
Symphony Orchestra of the Dagestan State Opera.
Valery Khlebnikov, conductor.

Born in 2010 in Stavropol, Russia, he is a pianist, composer, child prodigy and actor. He studies at the Central Music School at the Moscow State Conservatory, and has performed with the Russian National Orchestra and the Youth Symphony.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elisey_Mysin

<https://eliseymysin.com>

Mozart Concerto no. 23 in A major k. 488. 28.00.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeTNrlgU2k8>

Alisa Sadikova, Harpist. 9.

Alisa Sadikova is a classical harpist, born in Saint Petersburg in 2003. She has established a reputation as a world-renowned soloist, winning many international competitions. As a soloist, Alisa has performed with orchestras in over 25 countries in prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Vienna State Opera, etc. Alisa is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree at the Juilliard School in New York.

The Fountain by Grandjany. 5.40.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1-LCnGojnw>

(You may hear the harp pedals being used)

Also see Alisa at 20:

Fantasie from the opera “*Faust*” by Gounod

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhiCo0SdCQQ>

Te Iwi E from Te Whānau Wehi

Performed by the New Zealand Youth Choir, 2016. 2.00.

"Titiro ki ngā iwi me nga mahi matou
e horo ake nei e
ruana te whenua takiwa ki te moana e
aue te aroha te mamae i ahau e"

"Look to the people and our work
Let's do this together
Like the rumbling of the land and to the sea
No matter how much hurt, the love will be there"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jap-wPR7H_A

2016: The New Zealand Youth Choir (NZYC) achieved significant success, including winning the Grand Prix at the International Festival of Academic Choirs (IFAS) in the Czech Republic. They also performed at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris.

2025: Congratulations to the [NZ Youth Choir](#) whose winning streak has continued with the prestigious **Choir of the World** title at Llangollen Eisteddfod in Wales!

Isa Isa Vulagi Lasa Dina. 2.36.

Performed by the New Zealand Youth Choir

Music Director David Squire

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SiE7f3TKH8E>

A traditional Fijian Farewell Song, arranged by Siliva Gauatao, and performed at the 2019 40th Anniversary Concert before the NZ Choir's International Tour of the Pacific Islands.

ISA LEI

Isa isa vulagi lasa dina
Nomu lako au na rarawa kina
Cava beka ko a mai cakava
Nomu lako au na sega ni lasa

*Isa, Isa you are my only treasure.
Must you leave me, so lonely and forsaken?
As the roses will miss the sun at dawning
Every moment my heart for you is yearning.*

Isa lei, na noqu rarawa
Ni ko sana vodo e na mataka
Bau nanuma, na nodatou lasa
Mai Suva nanuma tiko ga

*Isa Lei, the purple shadow falling,
Sad the morrow will dawn upon my sorrow.
Oh forget not, when you're far away,
Precious moments beside dear Suva Bay.*