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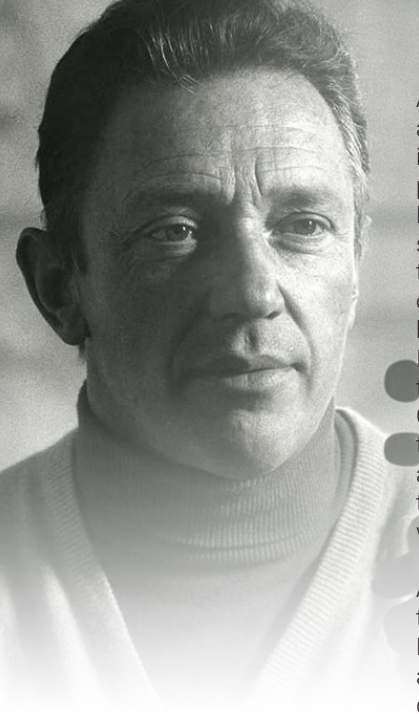
RENCONTRES MUSICALES

4th Alberto Lysy International Violin Competition

Gstaad (Switzerland)
8 - 10 October
2026



Alberto Lysy is considered one of the premier interpreters and educators of recent times. He resided for many years in Europe and often returned to his native Argentina to perform and teach young talented musicians. Born in Buenos Aires, the five year-old Alberto began his violin studies with his father, and continued soon after with the celebrated teacher Ljerko Spiller. At seventeen years of age, after having won important national prizes, he headed for Europe. In 1955 he was a prize winner at the International Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels - the first time an Argentinean artist received that honor. On that occasion he met Yehudi Menuhin, a member of the jury together with David Oistrakh, Zino Francescatti and other famous violinists. Menuhin later became his teacher and mentor, and generously exposed him to the world stage.

Alberto Lysy participated in important European festivals together with musicians such as Benjamín Britten, Peter Pears, Pablo Casals, Gaspar Cassadó, Yehudi Menuhin and Nadia Boulanger. As a soloist he played under the direction of Pierre Boulez, Colin Davis, Sir Adrian Boult and Igor Markevitch, and with orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic, National Symphony of Washington, the London Symphony and Philharmonic Orchestras, to name but a few.

Whilst carrying out his performing career, Alberto Lysy initiated important pedagogical activities as Director of the International Menuhin Music Academy in Gstaad (Switzerland), and founded programs such as the Festival Delle Nazioni in Città di Castello, the International Festival Pontino in the Castello di Sermoneta, in Italy, the Recontres Musicales also in Switzerland and the Festival Lysy in Argentina. In his early years, upon returning to Argentina, he founded the Camerata Bariloche with whom he toured extensively. In 1971 Lysy left the group to create and direct the Camerata Lysy with which he achieved some of his greatest successes. His concerts and recordings with them have delighted audiences throughout the world.

His many successful students are a testament to his strong musical and personal influence and can be found in diverse countries performing and teaching to great critical acclaim.

Alberto Lysy died in Lausanne on December 30th, 2009.

The Alberto Lysy International Violin Competition was created with the intention of promoting young violinists from all over the world, as well as cherishing the great violinist Alberto Lysy and his legacy.

Prizes and Awards

1st Prize — 10,000 CHF and the loan of a fine violin by Jean–Baptiste Vuillaume for a period of four years

2nd Prize — 5,000 CHF

3rd Prize — 3,000 CHF

Audience Award — The winner of the Audience Award will be invited by the Gstaad Menuhin Festival & Academy to give a recital in the summer of 2027 as part of the festival's concert series "Matinées des Jeunes Étoiles"

In addition, several concert engagements will be offered to the prize winners, including the opportunity to perform at the 2027 edition of the NUME Festival in Cortona, Italy. Laureates will also be invited to perform at the Festival Le Bois qui Chante in Château-d'Œx, providing further artistic exposure and valuable performance experience.

The Jury

Adelina Oprean — Violin Professor at the Music Academy Basel

Philippe Graffin — Concert Violinist, Professor at the Conservatoire Supérieur de Paris and Koninklijk Conservatorium Brussel

Raphaël Oleg — Violinist, violist, conductor, and Professor at the Music Academy Basel since 1995

Ettore Causa — Concert violist, Professor at the Yale School of Music

Daniel Geiss — Cellist and conductor, coordinator of the Gstaad String Academy 2026 and conductor of the Gstaad Youth Orchestra.

Amber Hu

Amber Hu is a fifteen-year-old violinist from Melbourne and currently attends McKinnon Secondary College. She began learning the violin in 2016 and is currently studying under the guidance of Mr. Yang.

In 2021, Amber was admitted to the Primary School of the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. In 2023, she was admitted to the Middle School Division of the Central Conservatory of Music. In January 2025, Amber returned to Melbourne to continue her academic and musical studies.

Amber has achieved success in numerous international competitions. She received Second Prize in Group II at the North International Music Competition in Sweden (2020), First Prize in Group B at the Hong Kong International Violin Competition (2021), and Fourth Prize in Category II at the Leonid Kogan International Violin Competition (2023). She was also selected to compete in the 4th Zhuhai International Mozart Competition (2022), the Arthur Grumiaux International Violin Competition (2023), and the Piccolo Violino Magico International Competition (2024). In 2025, she achieved strong results in violin competitions held in Sydney and Melbourne and was accepted into the Senior Division of the Heifetz International Music Institute Summer Program. In 2026, Amber received First Prize in the Australian Baroque Competition and was awarded Fourth Prize in Group D of the Hong Kong Youth Music Competition.

Amber Hu

Anathol Toth

Praised for his “extraordinary lyrical sensitivity of tone” and highly expressive performances, Swiss violinist Anatol Toth has established himself as one of the most promising young musicians of his generation.

Born in Switzerland in 2003 to a German-Hungarian-Swiss family, Anatol discovered his love for the violin at the age of three. When he was two, his family left Switzerland and spent several years traveling the world in a camper van. Exposure to different cultures and extraordinary experiences during these formative years nurtured a deep appreciation for music’s power to connect people and transcend borders.
Since 2014, Anatol has received numerous First Prizes with Distinction at the Swiss and German National Youth Music Competitions. He has appeared at festivals throughout Italy, France, and Germany, and at fifteen was awarded the WDR Classic Prize, leading to live broadcasts on WDR and MDR. A significant milestone was his performance at the Beethoven-Haus in Bonn, where he received the Hermann Abs Prize for the best interpretation of a work by Beethoven.

Anatol is a prizewinner of several major competitions, including the International Louis Spohr Competition, the Migros Culture Percentage Competition, and the Rahn Music Competition. He made his orchestral debut at eleven and has since performed at the Residenz Theatre in Munich and with the Basel Symphony Orchestra at the Stadtcasino Basel.

Anatol Toth is a proud recipient of a Kovner Fellowship at The Juilliard School. He is pursuing his Master of Music degree under the guidance of Mark Steinberg. His former teachers include Miriam Fried, Barbara Doll, György Pauk, and Gyula Stuller. He has participated in masterclasses with Leonidas Kavakos, Midori, Ana Chumachenco, Mihaela Martin, David Takeno, and Cathy Cho.

Anathol Toth

Dandan Jingfei Wang

Dandan Jingfei Wang, born in 2005, has been a student at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia since 2021 and currently studies with Shmuel Ashkenasi and Pamela Frank.

She previously attended the Colburn Music Academy in Los Angeles as a Kohl Scholar, and her former teachers include Midori Goto, Ida Kavafian, and Margaret Batjer.

She was the third prize winner at the 2025 Dorcas McClean Violin Scholarship Competition, the winner of the 2023 Australian Youth Classical Music Competition, and Richard Mills First Prize at the 2018 Melbourne Recital Centre Bach Competition.

She has participated in masterclasses with distinguished violinists including Augustin Hadelich, Ilya Kaler, Hagai Shaham and Qian Zhou.

In 2026, she received her Bachelor of Music degree from the Curtis Institute of Music and is currently pursuing her Master's degree.

Dandan Jingfei Wang

Dindin Jingyi Wang

Born in China, Dindin Jingyi Wang began playing the violin at the age of 3.

She was accepted to the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia at age 15, where she is currently pursuing a Master's degree studying with Shmuel Ashkenasi and Pamela Frank, and was awarded the Curtis Milka Violin Artist Prize upon graduation of her Bachelor's degree in 2026.

Previously, she held the Kohl Scholarship at the Colburn Music Academy in Los Angeles and also studied in Melbourne, Australia. Her former teachers include Margaret Batjer, Ida Kavafian, Fintan Murphy, and Xiaofang Shen. At the age of 12, she became the youngest ever winner of the Australian Kendall National Violin Competition. More recently, she was awarded Second Prize at the 2022 Chicago International Violin Competition, Third Prize at the 2024 New York Classic Violin Competition, First Prize in the 2025 Australian Dorcas McClean Travelling Scholarship, and First Prize at the 2025 Zhuhai Hengqin Mozart International Violin Competition.

She has also participated in several summer festivals, including the Morningside Music Bridge, Heifetz Music Institute Chamber Seminar, and Villars Music Academy.

Dindin Jingyi Wang

I-Hao Cheng

I-Hao Cheng is a Taiwanese violinist of exceptional artistry, recognized for his commanding technique, refined musical intelligence, and deeply expressive interpretations. His performances combine virtuosity with poetic sensitivity, establishing him as a compelling voice among the next generation of international soloists.

Cheng began studying music at the age of five in Taiwan, exploring several instruments before dedicating himself to the violin. At twelve, he was admitted to the pre-college division of the Eastman School of Music, where he studied with Mikhail Kopelman. He later continued his training at the Royal Conservatory of Music on a full scholarship with Victor Danchenko and Barry Shiffman.

In 2016, Cheng was accepted into the Curtis Institute of Music, where he completed both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees. At Curtis, he studied with an extraordinary lineage of distinguished musicians, including Aaron Rosand, Ida Kavafian, Arnold Steinhardt, Pamela Frank, and Gary Graffman. He currently studies with the internationally acclaimed violinist Midori Goto as a recipient of the Joseph and Marie Field Fellowship, continuing to refine his artistic voice at the highest level.

An accomplished orchestral leader, Cheng served as concertmaster of the Curtis Symphony Orchestra, collaborating with conductors including Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Osmo Vänskä.

Cheng's achievements have been recognized through numerous international honors, including the Grand Prize at the OneSong International Violin Competition and the Manfred Grommek-Förderpreis at the Kronberg Festival. He is a two-time recipient of the prestigious Chimei Art Award and was awarded the Audience Prize at the 2022 Singapore International Violin Competition. In addition, he has appeared as Artist in Residence with the Taipei Symphony Orchestra.

A dedicated chamber musician and festival participant, Cheng has been featured at leading international festivals including Kronberg Academy, Taos School of Music, and Banff Centre. Cheng performs on an exceptional instrument generously entrusted to him by CANIMEX INC. of Drummondville, Québec.

I-Hao Cheng

Ina Han Brekke

Ina Han Brekke (b. 2002) is a Norwegian–South Korean violinist who began playing the violin at the age of three.

After nine years in the Talent Programme at the Barratt Due Institute of Music in Oslo, she began her Bachelor studies there in 2019. In 2023, she continued her education at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin, where she currently studies with Professor Jiyoon Lee. Further artistic guidance has come from musicians and teachers including Kolja Blacher, Olivier Charlier, Arvid Engegård and Alf Richard Kraggerud.

Brekke has received recognition through several competitions, including first prizes at both the Norwegian Bank Soloist Competition and the Midgard Competition. She has appeared as a soloist with ensembles including the Trondheim Soloists, performing Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 4, and has also performed with the Oslofjord Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra and the Norwegian Radio Orchestra (KORK). Her festival appearances include the Norsjø Chamber Music Festival, Brahms 123, and the Fjord Cadenza Festival.

Alongside her solo activities, Brekke is an active orchestral musician. She served as concertmaster of Ung Filharmoni, a collaboration with the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, and regularly performs as a substitute with the Norwegian Radio Orchestra (KORK).

Ina Han Brekke

Michael Lewin

Michael Lewin was born in Berlin in 2003 and began his first violin lessons at the age of five. A career highlight to date was his debut as a soloist at the Berliner Philharmonie, performing Johannes Brahms' Violin Concerto under the baton of Samuel Lee.

Michael is a laureate of numerous national and international competitions, having won first prize at the Jugend musiziert national competition, the ISA Challenge, the Rudolf Matz International String Competition, the ProArt International Violin Competition, the International Moscow Music Competition, and the Szymon Goldberg Competition, where he also received three special prizes. In 2023, he won second prize at the prestigious International Grumiaux Competition. He holds a scholarship from the Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben, has been supported by the International Music Academy, and will also receive support from the Deutschlandstipendium starting in 2026.

As a soloist, Michael has performed with orchestras including the Chamber Orchestra of the Deutsche Oper Berlin, the LGT Young Soloists, the Khmelnytskyi Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Havel-Symphoniker.

Chamber music plays an equally important role in his musical work. He has appeared at festivals including the Kronberg Academy's Chamber Music Connects the World Festival, the Gstaad Menuhin Festival, Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the ISA Festival, IMS Prussia Cove, the NUME Festival, Chamberlab Montecastelli, the Brandenburgische Sommerkonzerte, Chieti Classica, and the Golden Violins of Odessa. His chamber music partners have included Christian Tetzlaff, Ettore Causa, Gidon Kremer, Daniel Hope, Simon Crawford-Phillips, Edgar Moreau, and Karolina Errera. He has also received artistic inspiration from Leonidas Kavakos, Vilde Frang, Vadim Gluzman, Robert Levin, Kolja Blacher, Ulf Wallin, Chaim Taub, Dora Schwarzberg, Rainer Schmidt, Gerhard Schulz, Erik Schumann, Stella Chen, Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider, and Boris Kusnezov.

From 2015 to 2022, Michael was a junior student at the Julius Stern Institute of the UdK Berlin under Prof. Bernhard Hartog while also studying in Vienna with Prof. Dora Schwarzberg. He currently studies at the Hanns Eisler School of Music Berlin with Prof. Antje Weithaas and is a mentee in the Stretton Excellence Mentorship Program under the guidance of Yamen Saadi.

Michael plays a G. F. Pressenda violin (Turin, 1823), generously loaned to him by a member of the Stretton Society.

Michael Lewin

Rebecca Beato

Rebecca Beato began her violin studies at the age of four and is currently an undergraduate student with Robert Lipsett at The Colburn School in Los Angeles, California.

Rebecca has appeared as a soloist and collaborator with leading artists and ensembles. She has shared the stage with Martin Beaver of the Tokyo Quartet (2025), performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra at Verizon Hall (2023), and collaborated with the Kronos Quartet as part of Kaufman Music Center's Bridges series (2021). In 2019, she performed Bach's Double Violin Concerto with Joshua Bell at The Musical Afternoon, benefiting the Special Music School. She has also performed with Charles Yang and Curtis Stewart. At age ten, she made her orchestral debut with the Cremona International Music Academy Orchestra in Italy.

Most recently, Rebecca served as Associate Concertmaster of the 2025 NYSO Seminar. She is a second-prize winner of the 2024 Sphinx Competition, a semi-finalist in the 2022 Sphinx Competition, where she received the Achievement Award, and was a semi-finalist in the 10th Louis Spohr International Music Competition in Germany.

Rebecca has participated in the Aspen Music Festival (2025), Encore Chamber Music Festival (2025), Kaufman Music Center's String Fest (2022, 2024), Chamber Music Northwest (2023), the Cremona Music Festival (2015–2016), and the Heifetz International Music Institute (2021–2022), where she studied with Ilya Kaler, Grigory Kalinovsky, Mihaela Martin, and Nicholas Kitchen. She has participated in masterclasses led by artists including Ilya Kaler, Soovin Kim, Miriam Fried, Ani Kavafian, Li Lin, Daniel Phillips, and Grigory Kalinovsky.

Beyond music, Rebecca is passionate about art. She is the lead illustrator and co-author of the book Who Is Florence Price?, which has been featured on Good Morning America, NPR, Telemundo, and ABC News. She has also performed in outreach programs in Skid Row, Los Angeles, as part of Street Symphony, founded by Vijay Gupta.

Rebecca Beato

Sara Isabelle Ispas

Australian-born violinist Sara Isabelle Ispas is currently pursuing a Master's degree at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin, where she studies with Professor Kolja Blacher. Born in 2003, she began playing the violin in 2013 and studied with her father, Daniel Ispas, at the Nantes Music Conservatory in France, graduating in June 2020.

Later that year, Sara began a four-year full-scholarship programme at the International Menuhin Music Academy in Switzerland (IMMA), studying with Oleg Kaskiv, Renaud Capuçon, and Guillaume Chilemme and participating in masterclasses with Liviu Prunaru, Rainer Honeck, Gábor Takács-Nagy, Jean-Jacques Kantorow, Baiba Skride, and Noah Bendix-Balgley.

She has also received artistic guidance from distinguished artists and pedagogues including Michael Vaiman, Pierre Amoyal, Kirill Troussov, Alena Baeva, Petru Munteanu, Ioana Cristina Goicea, Simone Bernardini, Luiz Felipe Coelho, Axel Strauss, and Jacqueline Ross in violin, as well as Nils Mönkemeyer, Jonathan Aner, Wolfgang Redik, Walter Küssner, and Gérard Caussé in chamber music.

Sara has received top prizes at numerous international competitions. In 2025, she was awarded the Kammermusikpreis Hasselburg. At the 2023 Carl Flesch International Violin Competition, she received Second Prize and the Special Prize of the MAV Symphony Orchestra Budapest. In 2022, she won Second Prize in the Seniors category at the Kloster Schöntal International Violin Competition, as well as the Special Prize "Baroque" and the Grand "Reinhold Würth" Prize for exceptional talent. The same year, she received Third Prize in the Seniors category at the Leonid Kogan International Violin Competition and Third Prize in the "Excellence" category, plus the Special Prize "Sonorité" for the best sound in the competition, at the Marie-Cantagrill International Violin Competition. In 2017, she won First Prize at the FLAME Paris International Violin Competition.

Since her 2022 debut at Victoria Hall in Geneva, Sara has performed as a soloist with the Menuhin Academy Camerata, Musicâme Ensemble, Savaria Symphony Orchestra, and Baden-Baden Philharmonic. She is also active as a recitalist and chamber musician in France, Germany, Switzerland, Poland, and Italy.

Sara Isabelle Ispas

Sara Schlumberger-Ruiz

German-Spanish violinist Sara Schlumberger-Ruiz, born in Stuttgart in 2001, stands out for her versatility as a soloist, orchestral musician, and chamber musician, with a repertoire ranging from the Baroque era to contemporary music.

She began her studies with Prof. Anke Dill at the HMDK Stuttgart and has continued her education since October 2022 in the class of Prof. Nora Chastain at the Berlin University of the Arts (UdK).

Additional chamber music instruction from members of the Artemis Quartet has been a significant enrichment, as has the opportunity to regularly perform as a substitute with the Karajan Academy of the Berlin Philharmonic.

She has received first, second, and special prizes in various solo and chamber music competitions. In 2024, she was awarded the "Gewa Special Prize" by the Carl Flesch Academy. In 2026, she received the Ladenburger Förderpreis and First Prize at the Maria Herrero International Competition in Granada. Most recently, she secured a concert scholarship as a semi-finalist in the 2025 German Music Competition, as well as project and concert funding as a finalist in the international Ars Competition.

She has appeared as a guest artist at numerous major events and festivals, including the European Cultural Forum, Ludwigsburg Festival, Ravel Festival, "Musik an der Tonstrasse" Festival, "Resonanzräume" Festival in Stuttgart, concerts organized by the Mozart Society Stuttgart, the "Crescendo" Festival in Berlin, and, most recently, the renowned Enescu Festival in Bucharest, Romania.

Since 2021, Sara has been a scholarship recipient of the "Cusanuswerk" Foundation and the Yehudi Menuhin Foundation's "Live Music Now" programme; since December 2025, she has also been supported by PE-Förderungen. She has appeared in broadcasts by WDR and Deutschlandfunk and has particularly established herself in the field of contemporary music over the past two years, most recently through an engagement involving a world premiere as part of the 2026 German Music Competition.

Sara Schlumberger-Ruiz plays a violin by Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume (c. 1874), generously made available to her by the Baden-Württemberg State Collection.

Sara Schlumberger-Ruiz

Stefan Aprodu

Ștefan Aprodu is a renowned young Romanian violinist and winner of the 30th edition of the Johannes Brahms Competition in Pörtschach, where he also received the Audience Prize in 2024. He was a laureate of the George Enescu Competition, receiving Second Prize in Bucharest in 2022, winner of the Vasco Abadjiev International Violin Competition in Sofia in 2021, and a laureate of the Arthur Grumiaux International Violin Competition in Namur, where he received Third Prize in 2019.

He began studying the violin at the age of seven in Bucharest at the "Dinu Lipatti" National College of Arts under the guidance of Magdalena Ursu. After graduating from the class of Prof. Krzysztof Węgrzyn at the University of Music, Theatre and Media in Hannover, Germany (HMTMH), he continues his master's studies there under the guidance of the same professor.

As a soloist, his international career has taken him to numerous European stages. He regularly performs with a wide range of Romanian orchestras as well as prestigious ensembles including the Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra, Cameristi della Scala, the George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra, the Südwestdeutsche Philharmonie, the NDR Radiophilharmonie, the Bulgarian National Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Sofia Philharmonic, Camerata Regală, the Orchestra Filarmonica Marchigiana, the Vidin Chamber Orchestra, and the Hungarian State Symphony Orchestra of Szolnok, among others.

His musical interests also extend to composition. He is a passionate and promising young composer who has won prizes in international composition competitions, including the Julius Roentgen Composition Competition and the Youth Composition Competition. He also completed a master's course in idiomatic music under Prof. Dåsele Vådår Sevaidå at the Dondolo Russo Academy of Music in Oslo, Norway. In 2022, he performed his own Violin Concerto in E minor twice with the Pitești Philharmonic Orchestra and the Moldova Philharmonic.

Stefan Aprodu

Tao-Yuan Hsiao

Tao-Yuan Hsiao (Elisa) was born in Taichung, Taiwan, in 2007 and began playing the violin at the age of almost six. At the age of eight, she won the Special Award at the National Student Music Competition in Taiwan. In 2018, her family moved to Vienna so that she could study the violin with Prof. Dora Schwarzberg.

Since her first international competition, Elisa has been greatly influenced by Dora Schwarzberg. In 2019, she won Second Prize at the Grumiaux International Violin Competition and became the winner of the Rudolf Matz International String Competition.

In 2021, she won First Prize in Category IV (under 18 years old) at the International Young Virtuoso Violin Competition in Zagreb and the First Grand Award at the Vienna Music Competition, where she performed at the Musikverein.

Elisa received the Special Prize for being "the youngest ever contestant in the competition's history" at the Vaclav Huml Competition in Croatia. She also won the top prize at the Worldvision Music Contest among more than 3,000 contestants from 78 countries and performed with the Nova Symphony Orchestra at the Konzerthaus Vienna.

In 2022, she enrolled at the Zagreb Music Academy, becoming the youngest student in the Academy's history at the age of 14.

In 2023, she was invited to perform with the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra, HRTSO (Croatia Radio and Television Symphony Orchestra), and ESO (Evergreen Symphony Orchestra). That year, she won the Chieti Classica International Violin Competition and the Hubay Violin Competition, and was invited to become an Artist in Residence at the Croatia National Concert Hall for the 2024–2025 season.

At the end of 2023, she won the Jenő Hubay International Competition in Budapest. In 2024, she received Third Prize at the Ilona Fehér International Competition in Budapest.

Elisa continues to study with Prof. Dora Schwarzberg and Prof. Andelko Krpan, Vice Dean of the Zagreb Music Academy. Since 2025, she has also been studying at the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest with Prof. Kristóf Baráti and Prof. Haruka Nagao.

Tao-Yuan Hsiao

Varvara Vasylieva

Varvara Vasylieva

Varvara Vasylieva is a Ukrainian violinist based in Berlin.

As a soloist, she has performed in recent years with the Sinfonieorchester Basel, the Bodensee Philharmonie, and the Mriya Orchestra, and regularly gives concerts with the Kyiv Philharmonic Orchestra.

She is a laureate of several competitions, including the Max Rostal International Competition (2nd Prize), the Odesa International Violin Competition (3rd Prize), and the Ysaÿe International Music Competition (1st Prize).
Varvara studied at the Hochschule für Musik Basel in the classes of Prof. Barbara Doll and Prof. Claudio Martínez Mehner. She is currently pursuing her Master's degree at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler in Berlin with Prof. Antje Weithaas.

She has participated in numerous festivals, including Zwischentöne Engelberg, Beethovenfest Bonn, Riehener Serenaden, Im Spiegel, and Fiskars Summer Festival, and has performed alongside musicians such as Valentin Erben, Claudio Martínez Mehner, Rafael Rosenfeld, Winfried Rademacher, and Silvia Simionescu. Since 2023, she has been a founding member of the Arda String Quartet.

Varvara plays a J. B. Vuillaume violin made in 1866, generously loaned by Wilhelm Geigenbau.

Yeonoo Jeong

Born in 2006, Korean violinist Yeonoo Jeong began studying the violin at the age of five. She is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Music degree in Violin Performance at Seoul National University, where she studies with Jaeyoung Kim and Soran Lee.

Prior to her university studies, Yeonoo attended and graduated from Seoul Arts High School as the highest-ranked violin major and received the Seoul Arts Award upon graduation in recognition of her outstanding achievements.

In 2026, Yeonoo was selected as a quarterfinalist in the Michael Hill International Violin Competition. She won the 16th Shinhan Music Award in 2024 and received First Prize at the Rising Stars Grand Prix International Music Competition in Berlin in 2023. She has also received prizes at numerous major national competitions in Korea, including the KCO Competition, Ewha Kyunghyang Competition, Segye Ilbo Competition, and others.

As a soloist, Yeonoo has performed on various stages in Korea and abroad. In 2025, she was invited to perform Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with the Hong Kong RH Philharmonic Orchestra. She has also appeared as a soloist with the Seocho Philharmonic Orchestra at its New Year's Concert, performed at the Concerto Night of Seoul National University College of Music, and appeared as a featured soloist in Seoul Arts High School annual concerts. She was also invited to perform in The House Concert 24-Hour Project Season 8.

Through her international experiences and diverse performances, Yeonoo continues to develop her artistry and musical expression as a young musician.

Yeonoo Jeong

Yo Saotome

Yo Saotome

Born in Japan, Yo began playing the violin at the age of five.

She has received numerous prizes, including first prizes at the Toho Music Competitions and Second Prize at the National Student Music Competition in Japan. At the age of ten, she was the youngest participant in the Aspen Music Festival and School in 2014.

She has collaborated with distinguished musicians such as Suyeon Kang, Cho-Liang Lin, and Martin Menking, and participated in masterclasses with renowned artists including Mihaela Martin, Koichiro Harada, Rodney Friend, Joel Smirnoff, and Anne Akiko Meyers.

She studied at The Juilliard School Pre-College with Masao Kawasaki and continued her musical education with Masafumi Hori at Toho Gakuen School of Music. Since 2024, Yo has been pursuing her Bachelor's degree at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin, studying with Jiyoon Lee and Kolja Blacher.

Yo currently plays a 1714 Santino Lavazza violin on loan from the Ryuji Ueno Foundation (USA).

Yuna Sung

Sung Yuna is a Korean violinist born in October 2009. She began studying the violin at the age of six and graduated with distinction from Yewon School. She currently studies with Jaeyoung Kim, leader of the Novus Quartet.

In January 2025, she made her debut on the Korean classical music scene through the Kumho Prodigy Concert, supported by the Kumho Cultural Foundation. She has presented recitals at Shinhan Art Hall in 2022 and, with the support of Youngsan Yangjae Hall, in 2024.

In 2024, she was awarded First Prize and a scholarship at the prestigious Ewha Kyunghyang Competition in Korea. She has also been expanding her presence on the international stage, reaching the semifinals of the Václav Hudeček International Violin Competition in 2025 and the Munetsugu Angel Violin Competition in 2026.

Through her participation in the Alberto Lysy International Violin Competition, she looks forward to sharing her musical talent and passion with a broader audience.

Yuna Sung

Zhang Zou

Zhang Zou

Born in Chengdu, China, in 2002, Zou Zhang began studying the violin at the age of five. After studying with Professor Li Kaixiang at the Affiliated Middle School of the Sichuan Conservatory of Music, he continued his musical education with Professor Qian Zhou at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in Singapore, where he completed both his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees.

As a young soloist, Zhang performed with the Sichuan Conservatory of Music Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Mark Gibson at the ages of eleven and twelve. He has also appeared as a soloist with the Sichuan Philharmonic Orchestra and the NPVC Orchestra. He was invited to perform at the gala concert of the Keshet Eilon Music Festival and collaborated with the distinguished pianist Eliso Virsaladze in a performance of Schumann's Piano Quintet.

His competition achievements include Second Prize at the Hong Kong International Violin Competition (2015), Third Prize at the Shenzhen Futian International Violin Competition (2016), Second Prize at the Singapore International Violin Art Festival Competition (2016), Third Prize at the Euroasia International Competition (2020), Second Prize in the Violin Category of the Yong Siew Toh Concerto Competition (2023), First Prize at the Euroasia International Competition (2023), Second Prize at the Singapore National Piano and Violin Competition (2023), finalist awards at the Vienna Classic Violin Olympus International Competition (2024) and the Weinberg Violin Competition (2024), and Fourth Prize at the International Rudolf Lipizer Violin Competition (2025).

Zhang has participated in numerous festivals and masterclasses, including the Singapore International Violin Festival and the Keshet Eilon String Mastercourse. He has also taken part in masterclasses with renowned artists such as Shlomo Mintz, Midori Goto, Dora Schwarzberg, Ning Feng, and Vadim Gluzman.

Zi Yang Low

Zi Yang Low

Malaysian violinist Zi Yang Low has developed a musical identity rooted in both solo and chamber music, shaped by expressive depth, artistic curiosity, and collaboration. He is emerging as a distinctive presence among the new generation of violinists.

He received Second Prize and the Jury Prize at the Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition with Trio Tokava and is a Grand Prize winner at the GSF Singapore Festival. He has also received first prizes at competitions including the Virtual International Competition Malaysia, Ipoh Music Festival, Malaysia Youth Music Festival, EuroAsia Violin Competition, and Singapore Raffles International Music Festival.

As a soloist, Zi Yang has appeared with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, Colburn Orchestra, Malaysian Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and Selangor Philharmonic Orchestra, working with conductors Carlos Miguel Prieto, Gerard Salonga, and Naohisa Furusawa. As a chamber musician, he has appeared at IMS Prussia Cove, the Ravinia Steans Music Institute, Heifetz International Music Institute, Meadowmount School of Music, Singapore Violin Festival, APEC Music Festival, and Miyakojima Youth International Music Festival, collaborating with Ettore Causa, Jonathan Brown, Marc Coppey, Tatjana Masurenko, and Paul Watkins.

He began studying the violin at the age of four following early piano training and later studied with Ming Goh and Małgorzata Potocka in Malaysia. A Kohl Scholar at the Colburn Music Academy, he completed his undergraduate studies with Martin Beaver at the Colburn Conservatory of Music. He performs on a Francesco Ruggieri violin, generously loaned by the Rin Collection in Singapore.

Since 2026, Zi Yang has been an Artist in Residence at the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel, under the direction of Augustin Dumay.

Federico Bosco

Awarded for his «always excellent results» and his «great and uninterrupted commitment to the service of students and the university» by the Hochschule Basel in 2018, first prize at the Salieri-Zinetti chamber music competition in Verona, the Sandro Fuga competition in Turin and the Orpheus competition in Bern, Federico Bosco has always dedicated himself to chamber music. Regularly invited to festivals, masterclasses and competitions, he performs with musicians such as Nora Chastain, Daniel Gaede, Silvia Simionescu, Troels Svane, Conradin Brotbek, Adelina Oprean, Igor Keller, Beatriz Blanco, Lisa Rieder. He has lent his expertise in master classes with musicians such as Leonidas Kavakos, Steven Isserlis, Philippe Griffin, Jean-Jacques Kantorow and singers such as Margreet Honig, Thomas Allen, Christine Schäfer, Michaela Schuster, Elena Mosuc.

He has appeared on renowned stages such as the Lucerne Festival, the Gstaad Menuhin Festival, the Salzburg Chamber Music Festival, the Auditorium and Palau de la Música in Barcelona, the Auditorium Nacional in Madrid, the Fondazione Lingotto Musica in Turin, the Rossini Theatre in Pesaro, the Teatro Calderón in Valladolid, the Granada Festival, the Swiss Chamber Music Festival in Adelboden, the Malta International Arts Festival and others.

He released two CDs with cellist Beatriz Blanco including the complete work for cello and piano by Chopin and Webern. In 2006 he made his debut with the Swiss Youth Symphony Orchestra (Mozart's Jeunehomme) and a year later with the Basel Symphony Orchestra (Bartók 1); he has performed with the orchestra of the Conservatory of Turin and the Philharmonic of the Theater für Niedersachsen Hildesheim/Hannover.

He studied conducting with Rodolfo Fischer and worked as an assistant for Buenos Aires Lirica, the Theater für Niedersachsen Hannover, the Theater St. Gallen and the Basel Chamber Orchestra. He studied in Turin with Claudio Voghera and Andrea Lucchesini, with Filippo Gamba in Padua and Adrian Oetiker in Basel and in masterclasses with Aldo Ciccolini, Alicia de Larrocha, Ferenc Rados.

Andrei Banciu

Born in Timișoara, Romania, and based in Berlin and Leipzig, Andrei Banciu is a distinguished pianist whose artistic focus lies in chamber music. He performs extensively as a collaborative pianist in duo recitals and his musical partnerships include regular collaborations with members of leading orchestras such as the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, MDR Symphony Orchestra Leipzig, Staatskapelle Dresden, Dresden Philharmonic, Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and the Romanian Chamber Orchestra.

Highlights of his recent concert activity include recitals with violinist Ning Feng in China and Singapore, a BBC recital at London's Wigmore Hall alongside violist Tabea Zimmermann, a duo appearance with violinist Kolja Blacher at the Kronberg Festival, and a performance of Beethoven's Triple Concerto in Istanbul with Vlad Stanculeasa, Valentin Răduțiu, and the Istanbul Symphony Orchestra.

In addition, Banciu is regularly invited as a collaborative pianist to major international competitions, including the Concours international de Genève, the Deutscher Musikwettbewerb, and the Alberto Lysy Competition in Gstaad.

Over the course of his career, he has appeared at many of the world's most prestigious venues, including Wigmore Hall and Royal Festival Hall in London, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Konzerthaus Berlin, Gewandhaus Leipzig, Semperoper Dresden, Maison de Radio France in Paris, Fundación Juan March in Madrid, as well as the Romanian Athenaeum and Sala Radio in Bucharest. He has also been featured at renowned festivals such as Kronberg Festival, Heidelberger Frühling, Kissinger Sommer, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, Europäische Wochen Passau, Música en Compostela, and Musica Mundi in Belgium. Following his debut U.S. tour in 2005, he has appeared as a soloist with orchestras across Europe and beyond, including in Romania, Italy, Belgium, Egypt, and Turkey. His performances have been broadcast by major radio stations including the BBC, Bayerischer Rundfunk, Deutschlandfunk, Radio France, Radio 4 Netherlands, RAI 3 Italy, and Radio România Muzical.

Banciu began his piano studies in his hometown with Maria Bodo before continuing his education in Berlin at the Universität der Künste with Klaus Hellwig and at the Hochschule für Musik "Hanns Eisler" with Fabio Bidini (piano) and Wolfram Rieger (lied accompaniment). He has also received important artistic guidance from renowned musicians such as Paul Badura-Skoda, Pascal Devoyon, Karl-Heinz Kämmerling, Jacques Rouvier, Rudolf Buchbinder, and Menahem Pressler.

Alongside his performing career, Andrei Banciu has been deeply engaged in teaching for many years. From 2012 to 2018, he held teaching positions at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater "Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy" Leipzig and the Hochschule für Musik "Franz Liszt" Weimar, and he currently serves on the faculty of the Hochschule für Musik "Hanns Eisler" in Berlin.

The competition is open to the public
entrance is free

1st Round: Thursday October 8th
Timetable: 09:00–12:30, 13:30–16.00, 16:30–19:00

Semifinal: Friday October 9th
Timetable: 14:00-16:30, 17:00-20:00

Venue
Kirchgemeindehaus - Untergstaadstrasse 8
3780 Gstaad - Switzerland

Final: Saturday October 10th
With the St. Gallen Symphony Orchestra and its new chief conductor, Pietro Rizzo
Timetable: 15:00–17:30

Venue
Church of Saanen - Chilchgasse 5
3792 Saanen - Switzerland

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Conçu et imprimé par l'imprimerie LBF Saint-hippolyte