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## Contestants Announced for the 2023 Cleveland International Piano Competition for Young Artists

*32 Contestants will partake in unparalleled musical opportunities and pre-collegiate experiences designed to develop their artistry.*

**CLEVELAND, OH – February 7, 2023** Piano Cleveland announces the 32 contestants selected to compete for nearly \$30,000 in prizes at the 2023 Cleveland International Piano Competition for Young Artists. The organization received a record-breaking 213 applications of the highest performance level from 27 countries and regions. The Young Artists' journeys will culminate in Cleveland, where the six Finalists will perform chamber music live with members of The Cleveland Orchestra and concertos led by conductor Steven Byess with The Canton Symphony Orchestra, Gerhardt Zimmermann, Music Director. The performances will take place at Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music and Gartner Auditorium, Cleveland Museum of Art from July 11-16, 2023.

The 32 chosen contestants - hailing from nine countries and regions - were identified by members of the CIPC for Young Artists Screening Jury, which included Kathryn Brown (Head of the Piano Department and Keyboard Division, Cleveland Institute of Music), Emanuela Friscioni (Director of the Creative Arts Academy, Cuyahoga Community College), Spencer Myer (Associate Professor of Piano at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music), Paul Schenly (Founder/Director of Pianofest in the Hamptons and Artistic Director, Piano Cleveland) and Yaron Kohlberg (President, Piano Cleveland).

"The level of skill and artistry displayed by these contestants is remarkable and shows their great potential to thrive as the next generation of concert pianists," said Yaron Kohlberg, President of Piano Cleveland. "We are excited about our role in guiding them on their musical journey and providing experiences that will shape them into the dynamic artists of tomorrow."

The Junior Division contestants ages 11-14 are Julianna Chen (13, Canada), Eddison Chen (13, United States), Anwen Deng (14, Australia), Ryan Huang (12, Canada/United States), Bo-Wei Huang (12, China Taiwan), Qinyaoyao Ji (13, China Taiwan), Chaeryeong Kim (11, South Korea/United States), Yujie Li (14, China), Sophia Shuya Liu (14, Canada), Elisey Mysin (12, Russia), Zihao Nan (12, China), Yixin Shen (12, China), Xinran Shi (13, United States), Taige Wang (13, United States), Zhonghua Wei (14, China), and Tian Xia (11, China).

The Senior Division contestants ages 15-18 are Yanyan Bao (16, China), Guillermo Hernández Barrocal (15, Spain), Eugenia Sánchez Durán (18, Spain), Xuanyan Gong (16, China), Seokyoung Hong (15, South Korea), Zihan Jiang (17, China), Saehyun Kim (15, South Korea), Jeongwoo Lee (15, South Korea), Zhexiang Li (17, China), Fuyin Liu (17, China), Chih-Chun Lu (16, China Taiwan), Valdemar Wenzel Most (18, Denmark), Haerim Park (16, South Korea), Young Ho Shin (16, South Korea), Ryan Wang (15, Canada), and Kai-Lang Yang (15, China Taiwan).

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These remarkable young artists will record their First Round solo recitals in six cities worldwide, including Cleveland, New York, London, Hamburg, Seoul, and Beijing. Recording venues have been selected in partnership with Steinway & Sons. Continuing their tradition of excellence in production, Piano Cleveland is working with the highest-level professionals to record First Round performances to ensure equity across all locations. The First Round will be broadcast on Amadeus.tv and Piano Cleveland's social platforms and website during the weekends of June 22-25 and June 29-July 2, 2023.

Following their First Round performances, six Finalists - three per age group - will be invited to Cleveland in July to participate in the Final Round live for Cleveland and global audiences. Finalists will perform at least three times while they are in Cleveland. First, each Finalist will play a free solo recital between July 5 - July 8 in three different locations, so audiences across Cleveland can experience the excellence of these developing pianists. Second, Finalists will play a Chamber Round performance with members of The Cleveland Orchestra on July 13 at Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music. And finally, the CIPC for Young Artists will culminate in the Concerto Round, where Finalists will play concerto movements with The Canton Symphony led by Maestro Steven Byess. Chamber and Concerto Round performances will be livestreamed.

The jury for the CIPC for Young Artists - who will be responsible for allocating almost \$30,000 in prizes - includes Ran Dank (University of Cincinnati - College Conservatory of Music), Kevin Kenner (Frost School of Music - University of Miami), Alexander Korsantia (New England Conservatory), Janet Landreth (International Keyboard Odysiad & Festival), Vanessa Latache (Royal College of Music), Yong Hi Moon (Peabody Institute at Johns Hopkins University) and Robert Shannon (Oberlin College & Conservatory).

In addition to their performances, Finalists will have the opportunity to work one-on-one with chamber music partners from The Cleveland Orchestra and Maestro Byess outside of rehearsal contexts, providing unique opportunities for these young artists to develop their craft and receive mentorship outside of the traditional youth competition structure.

Finalists will also be eligible to work with the exceptional faculty of the Cleveland International Piano Institute, a pre-collegiate intensive presented by Piano Cleveland and the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) that runs concurrently with the Final Round. From July 5 - 15, the Institute - held in partnership with the Lang Lang International Music Foundation - will welcome 35 additional developing pianists to work with high-level faculty through lessons and masterclasses and take part in workshops that provide exceptional training beyond traditional topics, such as applying for higher music education and building a musical career. Institute participants and Finalists for the CIPC for Young Artists will learn alongside one another and have opportunities to meet and engage with local Cleveland piano students.

Visit [pianocleveland.org](http://pianocleveland.org) for more information on the 2023 Cleveland International Piano Competition & Institute for Young Artists, repertoire, events, and more.

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### **About Piano Cleveland**

Piano Cleveland promotes Cleveland as a premier piano destination by presenting world-class programming, community engagement, and education initiatives. The organization's four major programs and events include the Cleveland International Piano Competition, the CIPC for Young Artists, a mixed-genre piano festival, and year-round education and community engagement programming.

### **About the Cleveland Institute of Music**

The Cleveland Institute of Music empowers the world's most talented classical music students to fulfill their dreams and potential. Its graduates command the most celebrated and revered stages in the world as soloists, chamber musicians and ensemble members; compose meaningful, award-winning new repertoire; and are highly sought-after teaching artists, administrators and thought leaders. A testament to the excellence of a CIM education, more than half of the members of The Cleveland Orchestra are connected to CIM as members of the faculty, alumni or both. The school's increasingly diverse student body benefits from access to world-renowned visiting artists and conductors, intensive study with CIM's stellar faculty and the rich curriculum offered by CIM's partner Case Western Reserve University. A leader among its peers, CIM presents nearly 350 free performances and masterclasses on campus each year, and hundreds more at locations throughout the region, including Severance Music Center. Explore [www.cim.edu](http://www.cim.edu) to learn more.

### **About the Lang Lang International Music Foundation**

The Lang Lang International Music Foundation strives to educate, inspire, and motivate the next generation of music lovers and performers by encouraging music education and performance at all levels as a means of social and emotional development. For more information, visit <https://langlangfoundation.org/>.

### **About Steinway & Sons**

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