

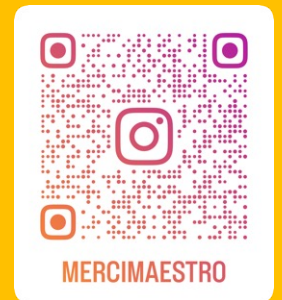
Merci,
Maestro!



8th
International
Competition
for Young Pianists

10->14.04.2024

Brussels
Belgium



Merci,
Maestro!

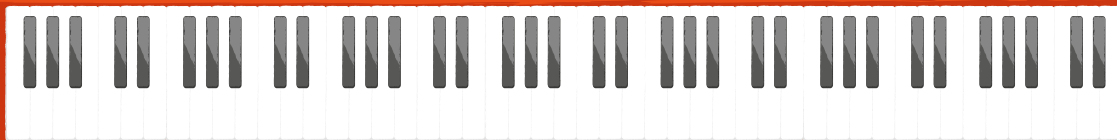
Program 2024

First & Final Rounds

Piano's Maene Brussels
Rue de l'Argonne, 37
April 10-13th, 2024

GALA Concert

Brussels Town Hall
Gothic Room, Grand Place
April 14th, 2024



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International Competition for Young Pianists



Merci,
Maestro!

2024

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Merci, Maestro!

Dear Participants,

Welcome to the eighth edition of the **International Competition for Young Pianists “Merci, Maestro!” 2024!**

This year, we have selected 54 participants from 67 applicants from 24 countries.

We believe that the entire society does benefit from the talents of young people. That is the reason why we organize this competition: we want to give you an opportunity to showcase your talents to the world and to express yourselves in front of your young colleagues.

Your participation in this prestigious competition is already a proof of your high level of ambition. It demonstrates your strong motivation to become a professional musician in the future!
I wish you a lot of success and good luck!

Best Regards,

Nataliya Chepurenko
Artistic Director
International Competition “Merci, Maestro!” 2024

JURY MEMBERS



Nataliya Chepurenko (Belgium/Ukraine)

President of jury, founder, artistic director and founder of the

- International Piano competition “Merci, Maestro!”

Founder, director, piano & chamber music teacher of the :

- “Brussels International Music Academy”
- International Festival “Music Academy FORTE”
- Chamber Orchestra “CAMERATA BRIMA”

For several years main pianist of the Royal Ballet of Flanders pianist at many international ballet companies. Jury member of several international competitions.



Jean-Claude Vanden Eynden (Belgium)

Honorary Professor at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels and currently at the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel. Vanden Eynden was often a jury member in international competitions, primarily on the jury of the International Queen Elisabeth Competition. He was also artistic advisor for some festivals such as in Stavelot. He built a solid career as an international soloist. He was also artistic director of the Center européen de maîtrise pianistique Eduardo Del Pueyo.



Diane Andersen (Belgium)

Honorary professor of the Royal Conservatoire of Brussels, she is now conducting master classes in the universities of North and South America, Canada, Japan, China, Korea, Taiwan and Europe.

Currently invited as member of the jury of international piano competitions. Member of the jury and the artistic commission of the world famous Queen Elisabeth International Piano Competition Brussels.



Johan Schmidt (Belgium)

Professor at the Royal Brussels Conservatory (Belgium) and Senzoku University in Tokyo, he regularly gives Master Classes in several European countries including Croatia (LAUS Academy), France (Académie d’été du Grand Nancy, Académie d’hiver du Grand Paris, Académie internationale d’été de Nice), Belgium (the international piano week in Wavre), and Luxembourg. He also gives masterclasses in Asia including China (Qingdao University of Science & Technology), Shanghai, Japan (Sendai Piano Forum, Tokyo, Nagoya).



Olga Zdorenko (Italy/Ukraine)

Professor of the Conservatoire of Frosinone (Rome). Artistic director of the musical association “Angelica Costantiniana” at Rome. She won a lot of international contests such as “Carlo Zecchi” (Rome), “Classical Sanremo”, “Sulmona Award.” She won the contest “Walter Massaza” in Alessandria and she received the O.Messiaen special award. She is always invited at international festivals and she performed all around the world: France, Austria, Germany, Romania, Switzerland, Greece, Spain, Belgium and Australia. Since 2015 she is the Lady of Malta’s Knights. She received a silver plaque from the President of the Italian Republic and the gold medal from the Italian Ministry of Culture for particular merits.

JURY MEMBERS



Tatiana Kozlova (Israel)

Professor of piano at the Israeli Conservatory of Music in Tel-Aviv. Artistic director of “Stretto international piano competition” in Tel-Aviv. Previously artistic director of Scherzo international piano competition. Teaches constantly around the globe in different master classes: Elena Cobb Star Music Festival, Musicfest Perugia, Carmel Klavier International Piano competition. Touring career: performing at various international festivals and competition in Lithuania, Poland, Holland, Greece and Belgium. Jury member in various piano competitions.



Yannick Van de Velde (Belgium)

Professor of piano performance at the Conservatory Grand Duchée in Luxembourg and the Akademie für Tonkunst Darmstadt. Finalist of the Busoni Competition in Bolzano, Italy (2015), “Prix d’Argent” and Public Prize in the Piano Campus Competition in Paris, and first prize in the Nany Phillepart Foundation Competition. Performed across the world: the Philharmonie of Berlin, the Acropolis Museum in Athens, Lincoln Center in New York, Center of Fine Arts and studio 4 of Flagey in Brussels, Casa da Musica in Porto, Palacio de Festivales in Santander.



Yurii Kot (Ukraine)

Honoured Artist of Ukraine, professor at the state P.I.Tchaikovsky Conservatory (now NMAU). A laureate of numerous national and international piano and piano duets competitions including the National L.Revutsky Prize. Alongside with concert career Yurii Kot carries out educational activities at the piano department at National P.I.Tchaikovsky Music University of Arts, serves as a jury member at many International Competitions, gives master-classes in Serbia, Japan and Ukraine.



Milana Chernyavska (Germany)

Professor of Piano at the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz (Austria). She leads numerous international masterclasses worldwide. A German artist with Ukrainian roots. A sought-after jury member at various prestigious piano competitions, including ARD (Munich), Busoni Competition, Telekom Beethoven Competition (Bonn), Mozart Competition (Salzburg), Santa Cecilia in Porto Competition, and Bluethner Goldaward (Vienna).



Tamara Kordzadze (Switzerland)

Teaching at the Zurich Conservatory and her piano class counts over 53 prizewinners of international and national piano competitions. Founder and president of “Vivace” – an association that promotes and supports musically talented children and adults in Georgia. Was co-founder, board member, and head of international relationships of the association „Youth Classics“ and „International Music Week Montepulciano“ from 2009 to 2014. Tamara has been distinguished and has won prizes – including 1st prizes – at numerous national and international piano competitions.



Herman De Vleeschhouwer (Belgium)

Former director of the Academy for Music, Theater and Dance of Sint-Niklaas (Flanders); honorary president of VerDi, interest group for art education at policy level; former lecturer for Music Theory at the Royal Conservatory of Ghent; Delegation leader of the International Music school Seminar. Director of Musica Mundi School until Sept 2023.

Competition schedule

1st Round at Piano's Maene Brussels

- **Cat D:** Wednesday, April 10th | 10h00-14h30
- **Cat C:** Thursday, April 11th | 10h00-18h00
- **Cat B:** Friday, April 12th | 09h00-13h30
- **Cat A:** Friday, April 12th | 14h00-15h30

Final Round at Piano's Maene Brussels

- **Cat D:** Friday, April 12th | 16h00-20h00
- **Cat C:** Saturday, April 13th | 09h00-10h30 (approximately)
- **Cat A:** Saturday, April 13th | 11h00-14h30 (approximately)
- **Cat B:** Saturday, April 13th | 15h00-19h00 (approximately)

OPENING CONCERT

10th April 2024 (Wed) | 19:30

Piano's Maene Brussels

Rue de l'Argonne 37, 1060 Brussels



GALA CONCERT OF THE WINNERS

14th April 2024 (Sun) | 18:00

Gothic Room,
Brussels Town Hall

Grand-Place



Category A



Ignacy Augustyniak
(Poland)

Winner of 2nd International Music Competition "Sfogato Stage" 2023 (Poland), "Forum Młodych Pianistów" - Nationwide Piano Competition-Forum of Young Pianists 2023 (Poland), 5th International Chopin Piano Competition (Austria), 11th György Ferenczy Piano Competition 2023 (Hungary) and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: Little Prelude N3 d minor, BWV 935
C.Czerny: Etude Op.299 N3 C Major
J.Garścia: Kamienny Ogród (The Stone Garden), Op.74 N5

Final Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: Little Prelude N3 d minor, BWV 935
J.Haydn: Sonata N9 D Major, Hob. XVI:4, 1st mov
J.Garścia: Kamienny Ogród (The Stone Garden), Op.74 N5
C.Debussy: Le petit nègre, L.114



Bilan Zlatyslava
(Ukraine)

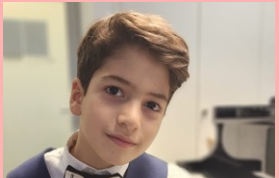
Winner of International Competition of pianist named after Maria and Natalia Yeshchenko, International Competitions Art without limits, 1st International online competition of Ukrainian Piano Musik UKE-PIANO, 3rd International Competition of pianist Chopin Spring and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: French Suite N2 c minor, Allemande, BWV 813
C.Czerny: Etude Op.299 N39 D-Flat Major
C.Debussy: Children's Corner, L.113 N1
Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum

Final Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: French Suite N2 c minor, Allemande, BWV 813
F.Chopin: Nocturne c minor Op.48 N1
I.Berkovich: Toccata



Hayk Danoyan
(Armenia)

Winner of 3rd Franz Liszt Center International Piano Competition 2023, 7th Scherzo International Piano Competition (Israel), Arno Babajanyan VII international competition-festival for junior and young pianists (Armenia), 3rd Lugano International Music Competition 2023 (Switzerland) and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: Invention N9 f minor, BWV 780
F.Liszt: Etude (S136) Op.1 N4 d minor
E.Grieg: "Peer Gynt" Anitra's Dance

Final Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: Invention N9 f minor, BWV 780
W.A.Mozart: Piano Sonata N16 C Major K.545, 1st mov- Allegro
F.Liszt: Etude (S136) Op.1 N4 d minor
W.Gillock: Fountain in the Rain



Joséphine Germain
(France)

Winner of Glory International Piano Competition New York 2023, Red Maple Music Competition 2022, 21st Century Talents Competition 2021 and 2022 and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: Prelude c minor, BWV 999
H.Lemoine: Etude Op.37 N31 g minor
H.Lichner: Tulip

Final Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: Prelude c minor, BWV 999
F.Chopin: Waltz a minor, B.150
H.Lichner: Tulip



Toni Gu
(Germany)

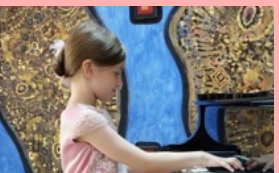
Winner of 16th Rencontres Internationales des Jeunes Pianistes 2023, 13th Bach Competition for young piano talents in Köthen 2023 (Germany), 84th Steinway Piano Competition 2022 Final Laeiszhalle (Germany), regional competition Jugend musiziert, Düsseldorf 2023 and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: Little Prelude N3 d minor, BWV 935
F.Chopin: Etude Op.25 N2 f minor
G.Händel: Air B-Flat Major, HWV 471
L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N1 f minor, Op.2 N1,
1st mov- Allegro

Final Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N5 D Major, BWV 850
J.Haydn: Sonata N50 D Major, Hob. XVI:37,
1st mov- Allegro con brio
F.Chopin: Waltz e minor, B.56



Sara-Beatrice Luca
(Romania)

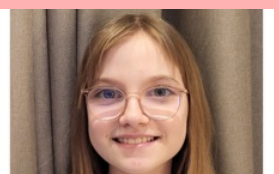
Winner of Nouvelles Etoiles International Music Competition 2024 (France), Liszt - Bartok International Piano Competition 2023 (Bulgaria), Piano Masters 2023 (Romania), International Piano Competition Davorin Jenko 2023 (Serbia) and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: Invention N8 F Major, BWV 779
F.Liszt: Etude (S136) Op.1 N10 f minor
A.Copland: The Cat and The Mouse

Final Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: Invention N8 F Major, BWV 779
S.Heller: Etude Op.46 N26 c minor
J.Haydn: Theme and Variations in C major, Hob. XVII:5
A.Copland: The Cat and The Mouse



Salomėja Scerinaitė
(Lithuania)

Winner of XII Riga international competition for young pianists 2023 (Latvia), 6th Vilnius International youth music competition Scarlatti 2022 (Lithuania), 4th International Piano and Chamber Ensemble Competition-Festival Edelweiss 2021 (Austria) and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: Invention N11 g minor, BWV 782
F.Liszt: Etude (S136) Op.1 N1 C Major
B.Dvarionas: "Nendrés" ("Reeds")

Final Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: Invention N11 g minor, BWV 782
B.Dvarionas: "Nendrés" ("Reeds")
F.Burgmüller: Etude Op.109 N15 "Les Sylphes"

Category B



Helena Belgardt
(Germany)

Winner of International Bach Competition Koethen (Anhalt) 2023, Bechstein Competition Berlin 2022, Clara Schumann Competition Leipzig 2022, BUNDESwettbewerb Jugend Musiziert: Chamber Music (Piano Trio) 2022, Tonkuenstler Competition Stuttgart 2020 and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N21 B-Flat Major, BWV 866
F.Liszt: Three Concert Etudes S144 N3 D-Flat Major "Un Sospiro"
A.Schönberg: 6 Kleine Klavierstücke, Op.19 N4, Rasch, aber leicht

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: 8 Variations on "Une fièvre brûlante", WoO 72
F.Chopin: Ballade N3 A-Flat Major, Op.47
A.Schönberg: 6 Kleine Klavierstücke, Op.19 N4, Rasch, aber leicht



Denys Burdeinyi
(Ukraine)

Winner of "Glow of Hortycy" (Zaporizhia), "Classic Meridian" (Kyiv), All-Ukrainian competition named after I. Ya. Paderevsky (Vinnytsia), International competition named after Yevhen Stankovich (Kyiv), National Award for Children's Talents of Ukraine 2020 and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude & Fugue" N6 d minor, BWV 875
F.Liszt: Two Concert Etudes S145 N2 f-sharp minor "Gnomenreigen"
M.Moshkovsky: "Spanish Caprice" Op.37

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N8 c minor, Op.13 "Pathétique", 1st mov
F.Chopin: Ballade N1 g minor, Op.23



Martin Droppa
(Czech Republic)

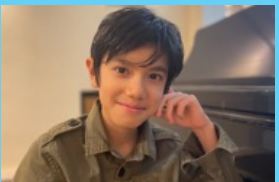
Winner of Chopin Avenue International Piano Competition 2022 & 2023, International Music Competition "Domenico Savino" 2021, International Competition "Forum Per Tasti" Žilina 2022, International Piano Competition Virtuosi per musica di pianoforte Ústí nad Labem 2022 and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: Sinfonia N15 b minor, BWV 801
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N5 G-Flat Major "Black Keys"
B.Smetana: Polka in a minor
F.Mendelssohn: Songs Without Words Op.67 N4 C Major

Final Round Programme:

J.Haydn: Sonata N38 F major, Hob. XVI:23
B.Bartók: Romanian Folk Dances Sz. 56/BB 68



Gabriel Fortunato
(France)

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: Invention N1 C Major, BWV 772
F.Burgmüller: Etude Op.109 N13 d minor
A.Pieczonka: Tarantella in a minor
M.Clementi: Sonatina Op.36 N4 F Major

Final Round Programme:

M.Clementi: Sonatina Op.36 N4 F Major
S.Kosenko: 24 Children's Pieces, Op.25 N1
J.S.Bach: Invention N1 C Major, BWV 772
F.Burgmüller: Etude Op.109 N13 d minor
F.Chopin: Nocturne N21 c minor, Op.Posth
A.Pieczonka: Tarantella in a minor



Christina Gounara
(Greece)

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: Sinfonia N15 b minor, BWV 801
C.Czerny: Etude Op.299 N21 c minor
F.Chopin: Waltz Op.69 N2 b minor

Final Round Programme:

J.Haydn: Sonata N50 D Major, Hob. XVI:37, 1st mov- Allegro con brio
J.S.Bach: Sinfonia N15 b minor, BWV 801



Andrew Guo
(Hong Kong)

Winner of Forum Pianistico Città di Chioggia 2019 (Italy), Tapiola (Espoo Finland) Youth Piano Competition 2019, 2021, & 2023 and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: Sinfonia N2 c minor, BWV 788
F.Chopin: Etude Op.25 N2 f-minor
F.Schubert: Impromptu Op.90 N2 E-Flat Major

Final Round Programme:

W.A.Mozart: Sonata N17 B-flat Major, K.570, 1st mov- Allegro
F.Chopin: Fantaisie-Impromptu c-sharp minor, Op.66
J.Pohjonen: The Sparkles (2022)



Celina Höferlin
(Germany)

Winner of Amadeus International Music Awards 2023, International Hans-von-Bülow Competition Meiningen 2023, International Classical Music Competition by Vienna Classical Music Academy 2022, International Piano Competition "Frederic Chopin" 9th Edition 2021 (Romania) and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude & Fugue" N2 c minor, BWV 871
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N5 G-Flat Major
F.Chopin: Mazurka Op.17 N4 a minor

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N11 B-flat Major, Op.22, 1st mov
F.Chopin: Variations Brillantes, Op.12

Category B



Michael Jiang
(Hong Kong)

Winner of Chamber Duo (Piano & Violin) Universal Stars 2023 Season 4, London Overseas Musicians' League International Piano Competition Online Final 2024, Chopin International Piano Competition For Youth Artists Warsaw Poland 2021 (Guangzhou) and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N6 d minor, BWV 851
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N2 a minor
M.Ravel: Le Tombeau de Couperin, M.68 N6 Toccata

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N18 E-Flat Major, Op.31 N3
"The Hunt", 1st mov- Allegro
M.Ravel: Le Tombeau de Couperin, M.68 N6 Toccata
C.Debussy: Preludes Book II N12 "Feux d'artifice (Fireworks)"



Saule Jusionis
(United Kingdom)

Winner of Watford Music Festival 2023, Ealing Music Festival 2019, Watford Music Festival 2019 and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N11 F Major, BWV 856
S.Bortkiewicz: Etude Op.15 N1 F Major
V.Barkauskas: Elegija ir Fantastine Tokata

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N16 G Major, Op.31 N1, 1st mov
F.Liszt: Années de pèlerinage I, S.160 N9
"Les Cloches De Genève"



Christian Kessler
(Germany)

Winner of Munich piano competition 2022 and 2023, Four Notes International piano competition 2022, Fujairah international piano competition 2021 and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: English Suite N3 g minor, Prelude, BWV 808
F.Chopin: Etude Op.25 N12 c minor
F.Schubert: Impromptu Op.90 N2 E-Flat Major

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N8 c minor, Op.13
"Pathétique"- 1st mov
F.Schubert: Impromptu Op.90 N2 E-Flat Major



Eliza Kozlova
(Latvia)

Winner of International Piano Competition of "Music Academy FORTE" 2023 (Belgium), International Music Competition FLAME 2023 (France), 40eme Trophée Européen de la Musique (Belgium), Concours Luxembourgeois pour Jeunes Solistes (Luxembourg) and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: Sinfonia N15 b minor, BWV 801
F.Liszt: Etude (S136) Op.1 N12 b-flat minor
F.Chopin: Impromptu Op.29 N1 A-Flat Major

Final Round Programme:

J.Haydn: Sonata N38 F major, Hob. XVI:23, 1st & 2nd mov
F.Liszt: Etude (S136) Op.1 N12 b-flat minor
F.Chopin: Impromptu Op.29 N1 A-Flat Major



Tamar Kvitsiani
(Georgia)

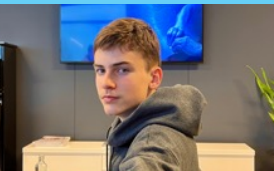
Winner of Baltic Fest, Ukraine-Finland-Latvia-Lithuania-Czech Republic 2024, Birmingham International Music Competition 2024, Euterpe Music Awards 2023, International Talent Competition "Valensia Art Fest 2022", All-Ukrainian III Festival-Competition "Веселкова мрія" 2022 and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N21 B-Flat Major,
BWV 866
F.Liszt: Etude (S136) Op.1 N12 b-flat minor
W.A.Mozart: Rondo Alla Turca (Turkish March)
F.Chopin: Etude Op.25 N9 G-Flat Major "Butterfly"

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N5 c minor, Op.10 N1, 1st mov-
Allegro molto e con brio
F.Mendelssohn: Rondo Capriccioso Op.14 E Major
F.Liszt: Two Concert Etudes S145 N1 D-Flat Major
"Waldesrauschen"



Alexander Lisitzky
(Belgium)

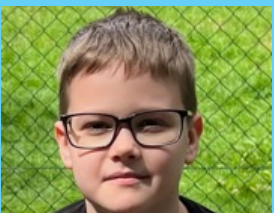
Participant in Steinway Piano Competition and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: Sinfonia N6 E Major, BWV 792
C.Czerny: Etude Op.299 N5 C Major
F.Chopin: Waltz Op.64 N2 c-sharp minor

Final Round Programme:

W.A.Mozart: Sonata N16 C Major, KV.545, 1st mov- Allegro
J.S.Bach: Sinfonia N6 E Major, BWV 792
J.Sibelius: Etude Op.76 N2
F.Chopin: Waltz Op.64 N2 c-sharp minor



Daniil Pidlisnyi
(Ukraine)

Winner of "Bieszczady Bez Granic" (Poland), M. Mozskowski competition (Poland), Spring Chopin competition (Poland) and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude & Fugue" N15 G Major, BWV 884
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N2 a minor
M.Skoryk: Partita N5 Waltz

Final Round Programme:

W.A.Mozart: Sonata N6 D Major, KV.284, 1st mov
F.Mendelssohn: Rondo Capriccioso Op.14 E Major
F.Chopin: Mazurka Op.67 N4 a minor

Category B



Boris Trifonov
(Bulgaria)

Winner of International Munich Piano Competition 2023, Orbetello Piano Competition International (Italy), International Piano Competition "De Bach Au Jazz" (Greece), "Les Cles d'Or" international Piano Competition, "Stella Oslekova" National Competition for Young Pianists (Bulgaria), and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude & Fugue" N16 g minor, BWV 885
F.Liszt: Two Concert Etudes S145 N2 f-sharp minor
"Gnomesreigen"
V.Kalabis: Accents Op.26 - Agitato. Molto allegro

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N3 C Major, Op.2 N3, 1st mov
R.Schumann: Novelette Op.21 N2 D Major



Zihan (Daniel) Wang
(United Kingdom)

Winner of North London music festival 2023, Blackheath music festival 2021 and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: Invention N6 E Major, BWV 777
C.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N3 E Major
B.Bartók: Romanian Folk Dances Sz. 56/BB 68,
N1, 4, 5 and 6

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N5 c minor, Op.10 N1, 1st mov-
Allegro molto e con brio
F.Mendelssohn: Rondo Capriccioso Op.14 E Major
C.Debyussy: Preludes Book I N8 "La fille aux cheveux de lin
(The Girl with the Flaxen Hair)"



Christian Gilissen
(Netherlands)

Winner of Maassluis competition 2024, Gustav Mahler competition (Prague), Musikverein (Vienna), World's best musicians (Poland), Music Academy FORTE (Belgium) and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N2 c minor, BWV 847
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N12 c minor "Revolutionary"
L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N1 f minor, Op.2 N1- 1st mov

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N1 f minor, Op.2 N1, 1st mov
J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N2 c minor, BWV 847
T.Niimi: Winds in Sorrows
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N12 c minor "Revolutionary"

Category C



Andrejs Avramecs
(Latvia)

Winner of "Olimpo musicale" competition in Kaunas 2022, Young pianist international competition dedicated to Jaurīte Putniņa in Valmiera 2022, Vilnius Bach international competition 2020 and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N16 g minor, BWV 861
F.Liszt: Transcendental Etude N7 E-Flat Major "Eroica"
C.Debyussy: Suite Bergamasque L.75 - 1. Prélude

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N7 D Major Op.10 N3, 1st mov
J.Brahms: Rhapsody Op.79 N1 b minor
P.Sancan: Toccata



Boris Bikov
(Bulgaria)

Winner of 6th International Competition for Chamber Ensembles and Individual Performers 2022 (Music Context association, Borovets Resort Complex), 9th International Vocal and Instrumental Music Competition "The Sound of Time", 31st European Music Competition (Italy) and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N8 e-flat minor,
BWV 853
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N4 c-sharp minor
J.Brahms: Fantasias, Op.116 N3 Capriccio g minor-
Allegro passionato

Final Round Programme:

J.Haydn: Sonata N59 E-Flat Major, Hob. XVI:49,
1st mov- Allegro
M.Ravel: Jeux d'eau, M.30
J.Brahms: Fantasias, Op.116 N1 Capriccio d minor-
Presto energico
J.Brahms: Fantasias, Op.116 N6 Intermezzo in E major-
Andantino teneramente
J.Brahms: Fantasias, Op.116 N7 Capriccio in d minor-
Allegro agitato

Category C



Monika D'Ermo
(Italy)

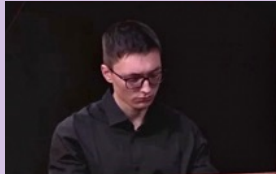
Winner of "CIMN" competition, "Anxur" competition, first edition of the "Premio Mater" competition, second edition of the "Premio Mater" competition, "Cimarosa" competition, "Città di Baronissi" competition and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude & Fugue" N12 f minor, BWV 881
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N4 c-sharp minor
F.Liszt: Ballade N2 b minor, S171

Final Round Programme:

M.Clementi: Sonata Op.50 N3 g minor,
"Abandoned Dido", 1st mov
F.Liszt: Ballade N2 b minor, S171



Harun Ergen
(Switzerland)

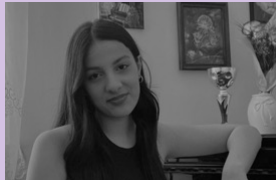
Winner of Swiss Youth Music competition 2021, 2023 and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N2 c minor, BWV 847
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N12 c minor "Revolutionary"
W.A.Mozart: Sonata N8 a minor, KV.310,
1st mov- Allegro Maestoso

Final Round Programme:

W.A.Mozart: Sonata N8 a minor, KV.310,
1st mov- Allegro Maestoso
M.Skoryk: Partita N5 Waltz
F.Chopin: Ballade N1 g minor, Op.23



Singh Hemansi-Maria
(Romania)

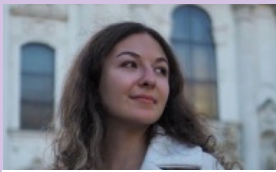
Winner of "Alma Cornea" International piano competition 2023 and 2022, Orbetello piano competition 2023 (Italy), First absolute prize at Napocensis Piano Competition, Cluj- napoca 2023 and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N21 B-Flat Major, BWV 866
F.Liszt: Three Concert Etudes S144 N3 D-Flat Major
"Un Sospiro"

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N17 d minor, Op.31 N2
"Tempest", 1st mov
J.Brahms: Rhapsody Op.79 N2 g minor
F.Liszt: Three Concert Etudes S144 N3 D-Flat Major
"Un Sospiro"



Karina Khafian
(Ukraine)

Winner of European Winter Music Competition 2022, All-Ukrainian Open Music Competition named after Levko Revutski 2021, 7th International Instrumental Competition named after Yevhen Stankovych 2020, International Competition "Odesa Music Olymp" 2020 and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N12 f minor, BWV 857
F.Liszt: Two Concert Etudes S145 N1 D-Flat Major
"Waldesrauschen"
B.Bartók: Piano Sonata Sz.80, 1st mov- Allegro moderato

Final Round Programme:

J.Haydn: Sonata N62 E-Flat Major, Hob. XVI:52, 1st mov
F.Liszt: Spanish Rhapsody S.254



Jef Kolacny
(Belgium)

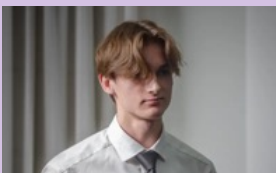
Winner of Cantabile Piano Competition 2022, Concours de Piano Andrée Charlier 2021, Concours de Piano Andrée Charlier 2020, Steinway Piano Competition Belgium 2022 and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N22 b-flat minor, BWV 867
F.Chopin: Etude Op.25 N12 c minor
F.Chopin: Barcarolle Op.60 F-Sharp Major

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N21 C Major, Op.53
"Waldstein", 1st mov- Allegro con brio
F.Chopin: Barcarolle Op.60 F-Sharp Major



Dmytro Kushch
(Ukraine)

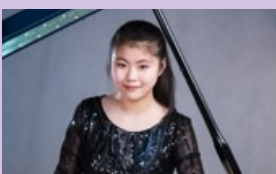
Winner of XI International Vladimir Horowitz Competition 2016, XII International Vladimir Horowitz Competition 2018, VIII All-Ukrainian Piano Competition "Gifted" 2023, III International Piano Competition "Wiosna Chopinowska" 2023 and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N12 f minor, BWV 857
F.Chopin: Etude Op.25 N11 a minor
F.Chopin: Waltz N5 A-Flat Major, Op.42

Final Round Programme:

W.A.Mozart: Sonata N18 D Major, K.576, 1st mov
L.Revutsky: Prelude Op.4 N2 f-sharp minor
F.Chopin: Etude Op.25 N5 e minor
F.Chopin: Scherzo N2 b-flat minor, Op.31



Zitong Li
(China)

Winner of 2014 South Korea Youngchang Music Piano Competition (China), 6th Hong Kong International Piano Invitational Competition, 2021 China Youth Music Competition Hummingbird Music Award, 23rd Santa Cecilia International Piano Competition (China) and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude & Fugue" N15 G Major, BWV 884
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N4 c-sharp minor
C.Debussy: L'isle Joyeuse

Final Round Programme:

J.Haydn: Sonata N31 A-Flat Major, Hob. XVI:46, 1st mov
G.Ligeti: Études for Piano Book 1 N4 "Fanfares"
F.Liszt: Mephisto Waltz N1 A Major, S514

Category C



Mykhailo Lukaniuk
(Ukraine)

Winner of Artistic Award Tatiana Shebanova "For special Chopin predispositions"-19th International Film Festival "Bieszczady Without Borders", open competition "Karl Czerny: more than sketches", Open piano festival, competition of Ukrainian music by Maria Krushelnyska and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude & Fugue" N24 b minor, BWV 869
F.Chopin: Etude Op.25 N11 a minor
B.Lyatoshynsky: Five Preludes Op.44 N4- Andante sostenuto
B.Lyatoshynsky: Five Preludes Op.44 N3- Allegro agitato

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N17 d minor, Op.31 N2
"Tempest", 1st mov
F.Liszt: Hungarian Rhapsody N12 c-sharp minor, S244



Yaroslav Maksymets
(Ukraine)

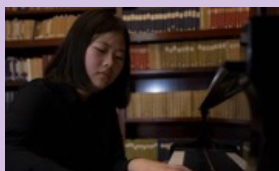
Winner of KyivSmart Piano competition 2023 (Ukraine), Sviatoslav Richter Piano Competition 2023 (Ukraine) and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude & Fugue" N6 d minor, BWV 875
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N1 C Major
F.Chopin: Ballade N1 g minor, Op.23

Final Round Programme:

J.Haydn: Sonata N60 C Major, XVI:50, 1st mov
F.Liszt: Spanish Rhapsody S.254



Kaeun Park
(South Korea)

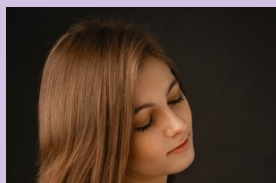
Winner of Best student award- CPM Amaniel 2023 (Spain), I piano competition asociación artística música callada 2021 (Spain), Music competition "Visitación Magarzo" soloist category 2019 (Spain), Seoul Music teenager competition (South Korea) and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N15 G Major, BWV 860
F.Liszt: Transcendental Etude N5 B-Flat Major "Feux follets"
C.Deubussy: L'isle Joyeuse

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N21 C Major, Op.53 "Waldstein",
1st mov- Allegro con brio
F.Chopin: Ballade N1 g minor, Op.23



Dominika Rak
(Poland)

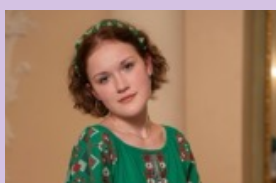
Winner of 7th International Competition for young pianists "CITTÀ DI MINERBIO » 2023, XXV Santa Cecilia International Piano Competition in Porto 2023, 15th International Chopin Competition for young pianists in Narva, 8th Odin International Music Competition 2022 and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude & Fugue" N20 a minor, BWV 889
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N8 F Major
C.Deubussy: L'isle Joyeuse

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N21 C Major, Op.53 "Waldstein",
1st mov- Allegro con brio
K.Szymanowski: Prelude Op.1 N2 d minor
F.Chopin: Ballade N1 g minor, Op.23



Solomiia Salamaniuk
(Ukraine)

Winner of 11th Riga International Competition 2022 (Latvia), International Young Artist Open Competition 2022 (Hong Kong), 9th Stankovych International Competition 2021 (Ukraine) and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude & Fugue" N1 C Major, BWV 870
F.Liszt: Transcendental Etude N10 f minor
V.Silvestrov: Triade N3 Music of Silver Tones

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N26 E-Flat Major, Op. 81a
"Les Adieux", 1st mov
C.Deubussy: Preludes Book I N5 "Les collines d'Anacapri"
C.Deubussy: Preludes Book II N7
"La terrasse des audiences du clair de lune"
C.Deubussy: Preludes Book I N7
"Ce qu'a vu le vent d'ouest"



Tomas Serban
(Romania)

Winner of "Friends of Music" Competition 2024 (Sibiu-Romania), "Art Estival" Competition 2023 (Brasov-Romania), "The Art of Sounds" Competition 2023 (Petrosani-Romania) and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude & Fugue" N12 f minor, BWV 881
F.Chopin: Etude Op.25 N9 G-Flat Major
F.Chopin: Ballade N2 F major, Op.38

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N6 F Major, Op.10 N2, 1st mov
F.Liszt: Transcendental Etude N10 f minor
F.Chopin: Scherzo N1 b minor, Op.20



Serhii Shekhovtsov
(Ukraine)

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N14 f-sharp minor,
BWV 859
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N1 C Major
S.Bortkiewicz: Etude Op.15 N9 f-sharp minor
S.Bortkiewicz: Capriccio Op.3 N1 f-sharp minor

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N5 c minor, Op.10 N1,
1st mov- Allegro molto e con brio
D.Zádor: Etude in c minor
H.Reinhold: Impromptu Op.28 N3 c-sharp minor
S.Bortkiewicz: Polonaise Op.12 N3 c-sharp minor

Category C



Diana Stohnushenko
(Ukraine)

Winner of International Piano Competition "La Note Céleste" 2023 (France), International Competition Junior Samson François (Hippodrome of Côte d'Azur) 2022, competition of academic art "Art Freedom" 2021, All-Ukrainian competition "Kyiv Color" 2021 and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N9 E Major, BWV 854
F.Liszt: Two Concert Etudes S145 N2 f-sharp minor
"Gnomesreigen"
E.Granados: Allegro de Concierto, Op.46

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N21 C Major, Op.53 "Waldstein",
1st mov- Allegro con brio
F.Chopin: Scherzo N2 b-flat minor, Op.31



Kuan-Hung Tung
(Taiwan)

Winner of Taichung City Student Music Competition (Taiwan) and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N2 c minor, BWV 847
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N1 C Major
F.Chopin: Scherzo N1 b minor, Op.20

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N18 E-Flat Major, Op.31 N3
"The Hunt" 1st mov- Allegro
R.Schumann: Allegro in b minor, Op.8



Viktoriia Vitiuk
(Ukraine)

Winner of Concours Breughel 2023, Ukrainian competition named after Heinrich Neuhaus 2021 and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N17 A-flat Major,
BWV 862
F.Chopin: Etude Op.25 N11 a minor
F.Liszt: Hungarian Rhapsody N10 E Major, S244

Final Round Programme:

J.Haydn: Sonata N60 C Major, XVI:50, 1st mov
F.Liszt: Ballade N2 b minor, S171



Fong Teng Wong
(Macau)

Winner of Gustav Mahler Prize Piano Competition, X International Piano Competition Smederevo, The 3rd Great Piano Masters Competition, 5th International Competition for Pianists and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N20 a minor, BWV 865
F.Liszt: Grande Etude de Perfectionnement "Ab Irato"
S143 e minor
F.Liszt: Années de pèlerinage II, S.161 N5
"Sonetto 104 del Petrarca"

Final Round Programme:

J.Haydn: Sonata N53 e minor, Hob. XVI:34, 1st mov
E.Granados: Valses Poeticos
N.Kapustin: Sonatina Op.100, 1st mov



Kai Chit Jack Wong
(Hong Kong)

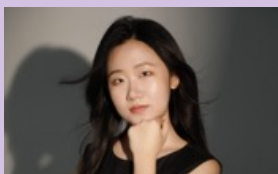
Winner of 74th Hong Kong Schools Music Festival 2022, 24th GMC Music Festival 2021 Concerto Class and Recital Class and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude & Fugue" N24 b minor,
BWV 893
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N1 C Major
C.Deussy: Preludes Book II N12
"Feux d'artifice (Fireworks)"

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N21 C Major, Op.53 "Waldstein",
1st mov- Allegro con brio
F.Chopin: Scherzo N2 b-flat minor, Op.31



Lezi Zhang
(China)

Winner of "Xinghai Cup" piano competition 2020, Imola piano competition for young pianists 2019 and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N17 A-flat Major,
BWV 862
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N10 A-Flat Major
M.Ravel: Gaspard de la nuit, I. Ondine

Final Round Programme:

J.Haydn: Sonata N60 C Major, XVI:50, 1st mov
J.Brahms: Variations on a theme by Paganini,
Op.35/Book I

Category D



Perceval Alizadeh Fard
(France)

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N9 E Major, BWV 854
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N10 A-Flat Major
J.Haydn: Sonata N41 A Major, Hob. XVI:26

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Piano Trio N3 c minor,
Op.1 N3



Oleksii Buymister
(Ukraine)

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude & Fugue" N20 a minor, BWV 889
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N12 c minor "Revolutionary"
L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N21 C Major, Op.53 "Waldstein",
1st mov- Allegro con brio
F.Schubert: Impromptu Op.90 N2 E-Flat Major

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Piano Trio N3 c minor,
Op.1 N3



Babette Craens
(Belgium)

Winner of Steinway competition, Guy Brodelet competition, Vlamo Competition and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N4 c-sharp minor, BWV 849
C.Debussy: 12 Etudes, L.136 N7 Pour les Degrés chromatiques
L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N15 D Major, Op.28 "Pastorale", 1st mov
A.Craens: Static Movement

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Piano Trio N5 D Major,
Op.70 N1, "Ghost"



Himawari Kita
(Japan)

Winner of Grandprix at the Prof. Dichler Competition of the Vienna Music Seminar 2021, International BTHVN Competition 2022, 13th Sigismund Thalberg International Piano Competition 2023 and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N12 f minor, BWV 857
F.Chopin: Etude Op.25 N6 g-sharp minor
J.Haydn: Sonata N60 C Major, XVI:50, 1st mov
M.Shishido: Suite pour le Clavier: Toccata II

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Piano Trio N5 D Major,
Op.70 N1, "Ghost"



Teruma Kyotani
(Japan)

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude & Fugue" N11 F Major, BWV 880
C.Debussy: 12 Etudes, L.136 N7 Pour les Degrés chromatiques
L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N21 C Major, Op.53 "Waldstein",
1st mov- Allegro con brio

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Piano Trio N3 c minor,
Op.1 N3



Dahyeon Lee
(South Korea)

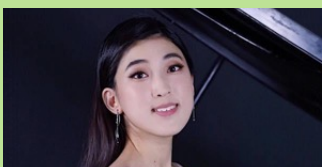
Winner of Busan Music Competition, Busan Chamber Music Competition and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N5 D Major, BWV 850
C.Debussy: 12 Etudes, L.136 N7 Pour les Degrés chromatiques
L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N16 G Major, Op.31 N1, 1st mov

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Piano Trio N3 c minor,
Op.1 N3



Catherine Ma
(Canada)

Winner of 2024 Yamaha Benelux Foundation Award, Bremen International Piano Competition, Pianohouse International Piano Competition, Sixth Camerata Artists International Competition, Tkaczewski International Piano Competition, Paderewski International Piano Competition and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N19 A Major, BWV 864
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N5 G-Flat Major "Black Keys"
L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N30 E Major, Op.109, 1st & 2nd mov
G.Gershwin/E.Wild: Etude N4 "Embraceable You"

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Piano Trio N3 c minor,
Op.1 N3



Denys Zarubaiko
(Ukraine)

Winner of Yamaha Scholarship (2020-2021), Kin's Peak Piano Competition, Franz Liszt Center Piano Competition, 4th MEIPC Piano Competition and more.

First Round Programme:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude & Fugue" N18 g-sharp minor, BWV 887
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N1 C Major
L.v.Beethoven: Sonata N23 f minor, Op.57 "Appassionata", 1st mov
F.Liszt: Liebestraum N3, S.541

Final Round Programme:

L.v.Beethoven: Piano Trio N3 c minor,
Op.1 N3

Session Musicians for Trios

All session musicians for trio performances are members of the chamber music ensemble CAMERATA BRIMA, founded by the Brussels International Music Academy (BRIMA).

Find info about them could be found on WWW.CAMERATABRIMA.BE

L. van Beethoven: Piano Trio N5 D Major, Op.70 N1, "Ghost"
L. van Beethoven: Piano Trio N3 c minor, Op.1 N3



Alexandra Novoseltsev
(Violin)



Kateryna Lastochkina
(Violin)



Valentin Feiss
(Cello)



Shuya Tanaka
(Cello)

Special Prizes

- Invitation by The Academic Symphony Orchestra of the Lviv National Philharmonic named after Myroslav Skoryk and the Lviv Krushelnytska State Music Lyceum to perform in one concert as a soloist with the Symphony Orchestra of Lviv (Ukraine) 2024/2025
- Grants for participation in the International Festival Masterclasses & Concerts "MUSIC ACADEMY FORTE" 2024/2025 (300 euro)
- Participation at the concert of MUSICORUM festival (Brussels, Belgium) 2024/2025
- Invitation to participate in the 20th International Piano Forum "Bieszczady Without Borders" in Sanok (Poland) from February 1-7, 2025 (Exemption from the entry fee of approximately 150 euro)
- Concert in ITALY organised by ASSOCIAZIONE DI ALTA CULTURA MUSICALE
- Participation at the concert with CAMERATA BRIMA in Brussels, Belgium 2024/2025
- Participation at the 4th edition of the NOH Artistic Walk (la BALADE ARTISTIQUE NOH) in Nov 2024, Brussels, Belgium
- SOLO CONCERT at the "SALON BRIMA", Brussels during 2024/2025
- Grant for participation in the International Competition "MUSIC ACADEMY FORTE" 2024 (-50%) to all 1st prize winners
- Prize for the youngest promising participants in each category
- The best performance of a virtuoso piece
- Special edition of music scores of Ukrainian composers
- Cash prizes, Medals, and Diplomas

International Competition for Young Pianists "Merci, Maestro!" 2024

 **Merci,
Maestro!**

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Founder & Artistic director: Nataliya Chepurenko

Program Coordinator, Responsible of Communication: HueyChing Chong, Juliette Simonet,
Olga Aksionchyk, Louise Flack

GALA CONCERT

organised with the support of the City of Brussels;

under the patronage of the Embassy of Ukraine in the Kingdom of Belgium

Mme Natalia Anoshyna, Chargé d'Affaires of Ukraine to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Mme Kateryna Bilotil, First Secretary

SPECIALS THANKS GO TO

Mr Fabian Maingain, Alderman of Economic Affairs, Employment, Smart City and Administrative Simplification

Mr Vincent Lignier, Piano's Maene, Branch Manager Brussels

Mme Solange Bertrand, Director of the HOOFDSTEDELIJKE KUNSTACADEMIE

HOST FAMILIES

Marta Guzy, Natalia Dianiskova, Annemie Cordemans, Michaël Lebrecht, Ewa Krynicka, Anna Knezi Zodi, Ewelina Wieclawska, Dilber Ahmed, Irene Montermann, and Godefroy Camauer.

And also, **all volunteers**, all those who helped with the organisation, especially the employees of the City Hall of Brussels.

PARTNERS



Next competition "Merci, Maestro!" – April 2025

Do you share our vision and want to help talented young musicians in their careers?

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Don't hesitate to contact us if you'd like to join us in our efforts to nurture young talents!

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