




**NATIONAL
STRING
COMPETITION**

**HILL FAMILY FOUNDATION
for ARTS AND MUSIC**

LEWIS EADY NATIONAL
**PIANO
COMP.**

clef.
CHIRON
LEWIS EADY
FOUNDATION



The brightest stars are those on the rise.

Join us and watch the exciting future of
New Zealand's next generation
of classical music talent.

14 - 16 DECEMBER 2024

HILL FAMILY FOUNDATION for ARTS AND MUSIC

NZ Registered Charity C22746



Sir Michael and Christine Hill, the violin Competition founders and supporters of arts in New Zealand
PHOTO: Mark Clinton



Soprano Claire Hood
2022 Whakatipu Music Festival
PHOTO: James Robertson



Natsumi Tsuboi, 2017 Michael Hill International Violin Competition
PHOTO: Sheena Haywood



Jenny Jin and Somi Kim
2023 Michael Hill International Violin Competition
PHOTO: James Robertson



The Hill Family Foundation for Arts and Music exists to encourage the appreciation of fine music and to proudly showcase the talents and works of New Zealand's artists. The Foundation recognises and rewards excellence and it advances the education of young New Zealanders.

The Hill Family Foundation for Arts and Music is committed to the future of the arts in New Zealand and is the umbrella organisation of five initiatives that are presented over three-year cycles in pursuit of enabling, encouraging, supporting, presenting and celebrating New Zealand art.

Michael Hill International Violin Competition

The Michael Hill International Violin Competition stands for excellence, opportunity, integrity and transformation; it is the launch-pad for violin virtuosos - the foundation stone of brilliant musical careers.

With a prize package valued at over NZ\$100,000, the 'Michael Hill' shapes the artistry of 16 of the world's finest young violinists. The 2023 Competition attracted 160 applicants and over 1.3m online audiences.

29 May - 6 June 2026
Queenstown and Auckland

The Winners Tour

The Winners Tour, presented the following year, is where the 1st prize winner builds their artistic muscle and delighting and inspiring audiences across the country.

24 Oct - 19 Nov 2024
NZ and Australia nationwide

National String Competition

In the service of New Zealand's talented high-performance young musicians, the National String Competition is delivered alongside the Lewis Eady National Piano Competition to showcase the country's next generation of classical music talent.

14-16 December 2024
Auckland

Whakatipu Music Festival

The Whakatipu Music Festival showcases extraordinary music from international guests, Aotearoa's leading musicians, emerging artists, and local talent workshopping and performing outstanding classical, jazz, singer-songwriting, Broadway hits and more. Brought to life by a local workforce, the festival supports and stimulates the arts, cultural and events scene in the Queenstown region and is a treasure for the community and the whole of Aotearoa.

14-21 April 2025
Queenstown

The Instrument Bank

The Instrument Bank is an initiative that matches string instruments with young Kiwi musicians who are in need of instruments that will springboard them to the next level of their music education, yet often lack access and the resource to make the necessary financial investment.

Year-round and nationwide

MICHAEL HILL
FINE JEWELLERS



Nockie's
Palette

Also supported by dozens of local businesses and donors



<https://michaelhillviolincompetition.co.nz/hill-family-foundation/>

TWO NEW ZEALAND ICONS HAVE JOINED FORCES TO DELIVER NATIONAL COMPETITIONS





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COMPETITION SPONSORS:





WELCOME

The Hill Family Foundation for Arts and Music and the Chiron Lewis Eady Foundation are proud to jointly present the National String and National Piano Competitions in this unique combined format for the second time.

The inaugural National String and Piano Competition in 2021/22 was impacted and twice delayed by Covid, so we are looking forward to a full, unaffected event this year. Presenting live music to a live audience is an essential part of young string and pianists' career development and we are delighted to offer this opportunity to New Zealand's next generation of classical music talent.

Not only are these competitions an important performance platform – they are also an opportunity for musicians to hone their skills and programmes, and are a 'stepping stone' to overseas competitions and further tertiary study.

A career in music is incredibly challenging, and both the Hill Family Foundation for Arts and Music and the Chiron Lewis Eady Foundation are committed to assisting these young musicians as they take the next important steps in their musical careers.

Thank you to all of the music teachers who have worked hard to prepare these young artists for these competitions, and to the competitors' parents and family for encouraging and supporting their children in their classical music journey.

We are incredibly grateful for the generous support received from our sponsors, funders and donors who make it possible for us to present these competitions.

These competitions are a chance to showcase the very best of this country's young classical artists on the cusp of their musical careers - we hope you enjoy watching their performances.

ANNE RODDA

HILL FAMILY FOUNDATION FOR ARTS AND MUSIC
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JOHN EADY

CLEF - CHIRON LEWIS EADY FOUNDATION
CHAIR





From rigorous national auditions, 15 string players and 15 pianists have been selected to compete in the **National String Competition** presented by the Hill Family Foundation for Arts and Music and the **Lewis Eady National Piano Competition** presented by CLEF - Chiron Lewis Eady Foundation.

14 - 16 DECEMBER 2024

SEMI-FINAL ROUNDS 1 & 2

The University of Auckland School of Music

NATIONAL STRING COMPETITION | with pianists Sarah Watkins and Gracie Francis

SATURDAY, 14 DECEMBER - ROUND 1 | 9:30am | 12:00pm | 2:30pm

SUNDAY, 15 DECEMBER - ROUND 2 | 9:30am | 12:00pm | 2:30pm

Fifteen string players each perform two 20-minute recital programmes comprising contrasting styles, including a work by a New Zealand composer. Three string finalists announced at the conclusion.

LEWIS EADY NATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

SATURDAY, 14 DECEMBER - ROUND 1 | 9:30am | 1:15pm | 5:00pm

SUNDAY, 15 DECEMBER - ROUND 2 | 9:30am | 1:15pm | 5:00pm

Fifteen pianists each perform two 30-minute recital programmes of their choice including a work by a New Zealand composer. Three piano finalists announced at the conclusion.

MASTERCLASSES

The University of Auckland School of Music

MONDAY, 16 DECEMBER

String Masterclass - Dene Olding | 10:00am

Piano Masterclass - Dr Paul Rickard-Ford | 12:00pm

GRAND FINAL

Westlake Girls High School Event Centre

MONDAY, 16 DECEMBER | 6:30pm

Recitals from three string players and three pianists will be presented.

At the conclusion, the adjudicators will announce the prize winners.

FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION THROUGHOUT THE COMPETITIONS, VISIT:

 nationalstringcompetition.co.nz | clef.nz

 [@stringcompetition](https://www.instagram.com/stringcompetition) | [@clef.nz](https://www.instagram.com/clef.nz)

 [@MHIVC](https://www.facebook.com/MHIVC) | [@clef.nz](https://www.facebook.com/clef.nz)



GRAND FINAL

Westlake Girls High School Event Centre

MONDAY, 16 DECEMBER | 6:30pm

Tickets: humanitix.com

COMPETITION PRIZES

1ST PRIZE | \$5,000

String prize kindly donated by the Becroft Foundation

Piano prize kindly donated by the Murray Jacobs

+ Recital at Lewis Eady Steinway Showroom

+ Performance opportunity with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra

2ND PRIZE | \$3,000

Piano prize kindly donated by Sally Evennett in memory of her late husband Derek Evennett

3RD PRIZE | \$1,000

Kindly donated by Trinity College London

BEST PERFORMANCE OF A CLASSICAL SONATA | \$1,000

Kindly donated by the Auckland Branch IRMTNZ

BEST PERFORMANCE OF A NEW ZEALAND WORK | \$500

Kindly donated by SOUNZ

PRELIMINARY STRING ADJUDICATORS

IOANA CRISTINA GOICEA

Ioana Cristina Goicea is one of the outstanding violinists of her generation. She won First Prize at the 2017 Michael Hill International Violin Competition in New Zealand, with critics praising her passionate performance and describing her as “a new star in the musical firmament.” In 2018 she won First Prize at the German Music Competition in Bonn and was a laureate of the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis. In 2019 she became a prize winner of the prestigious Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels. She is also the winner of the J. Brahms International Competition (2013) and laureate of the “Fritz Kreisler” International Violin Competition Vienna (2014).

Ms. Goicea has performed as a soloist at renowned venues in Europe, Asia, America, New Zealand and Australia, among them the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Konzerthaus Berlin, St Martin-in-the-Fields London, the Melbourne Recital Centre, Wiener Konzerthaus, Bozar Brussels, Meistersingerhalle Nürnberg, the Shanghai Concert Hall, the Athenaeum Bucharest, and the Town Hall in Auckland.

In addition to her career as a soloist, the young violinist is also an avid chamber musician.

Ioana Cristina Goicea was born into a family of musicians in Bucharest in 1992. She studied with Mariana Sirbu, Petru Munteanu and Krzysztof Wegrzyn at the Universities of Music Leipzig, Rostock and Hannover.

She plays a J.B. Vuillaume violin, on loan from a generous private donor as well as a modern violin by Jürgen Manthey (Leipzig, 2021).

Ioana Cristina lives in Vienna and has been a Professor at the University of Music and Performing Arts since 2020.



VICTORIA SIMONSEN

Victoria Simonsen has been described by The Strad as ‘a musician of rare quality’ and ‘utterly compelling’ by The Observer. She enjoys a varied musical life which includes solo, chamber music and orchestral work, as well as recording film and television soundtracks. Victoria was born in Auckland, and is now based in London, UK, with her two young children.

Victoria is a Professor of Cello at the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM). In New Zealand, she studied at Auckland University with James Tennant before moving to the RNCM, where she studied cello with Ralph Kirshbaum and Karine Georgian and composition with Anthony Gilbert, culminating with winning the RNCM’s Gold Medal in 2006. She continued her studies as a string quartet fellow at the Guildhall School of Music.

Victoria joined the Rautio Piano Trio in 2015, with whom she has recorded three albums for Resonus Classics, with plans to complete a cycle of Beethoven trios on period instruments. Her chamber music performances have been broadcast on radio and TV and concerts have included London’s Wigmore Hall, the BBC Proms, Purcell Room, IMS Prussia Cove, Manchester International Festival, Kronberg Germany, Banff Canada and two tours for Chamber Music New Zealand.

In 2005 Victoria was appointed Principal Cellist with Opera North and in 2007 she moved to London and enjoyed a decade as a member of the Philharmonia Orchestra. She works regularly with the London Symphony Orchestra and has appeared as Guest Principal with many of the UK’s major orchestras, including the Royal Opera House, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic.



STRING ADJUDICATOR

DENE OLDING

Dene Olding is recognised as one of Australia's most outstanding violinists. Until 2024, he was first violinist for the Goldner String Quartet and the Australia Ensemble (resident at the University of New South Wales) for many years and is Concertmaster Emeritus of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

As a soloist, Dene has worked with all of the Australian Symphony and Chamber Orchestras in a range of repertoire. He has performed over forty concertos and worked with some of the world's leading. He has given the Australian premiere performance of Lutoslawski's Chain 2, Elliott Carter's Violin Concerto and the Violin Concerto of Philip Glass. In addition, he has performed world premieres of violin concertos by Carl Vine, Ross Edwards, Bozidar Kos and the Double Concerto for violin and viola by Richard Mills.

Dene has also held the position of Leader and Director of the Australian Chamber Orchestra. He appeared regularly at the Australian Festival of Chamber Music and at many festivals in Australasia and Europe.

Dene attended the Juilliard School In New York from the age of fourteen as a scholarship student of Ivan Galamian and Margaret Pardee. Other studies included masterclasses with Nathan Milstein and further lessons with Herman Krebbers and Gyorgy Pauk. In 1985, he was awarded the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship to further his musical studies and during that year, became a Laureate of the Queen Elisabeth of Belgium International Violin Competition.

Solo recordings include a sonata disc of Brahms, Beethoven and Mozart for ABC Classics with his father, Max Olding, the CD premiere of concertos by Frank Martin and Milhaud and concertos by Samuel Barber and Ross Edwards (Maninyas) – winner of the 1994 A.R.I.A. award for "Best Classical Recording" and the prestigious Cannes award. He has also recorded the Hindemith violin concerti with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra under Werner Andreas Albert for CPO. His numerous chamber music CD's have also received acclaim including the complete Beethoven string quartets. Rachmaninov violin works with pianist Vladimir Ashkenazy also received praise from The Strad magazine.

Dene is passionate about the future of classical music and his role as Artistic Adviser (until 2016) and frequent jury member for the Michael Hill International Violin Competition as making an important contribution to that end. Dene also serves on the Board of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and is Chair of the Australian Music Foundation and Artistic Adviser for the Young Performers Awards.

In 2017, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for his services to music.



COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS

SARAH WATKINS

Sarah's passion for accompanying and chamber music has led to an impressive and busy career as a collaborative pianist. She performed across Australia, Asia, the USA and Europe as a founding member of NZTrio, and now enjoys a wide variety of collaborations with musicians throughout Aotearoa.

A three-time winner of Classical Artist of the Year at the Aotearoa Music Awards (most recently with Robert Ashworth in 2022, and Andrew Beer in 2020), Sarah has been an official pianist for the Michael Hill International Violin Competition since its inception in 2001 and regularly appears as a freelance player in the Auckland Philharmonia. In 2014 Sarah recorded Chris Watson's SOUNZ Contemporary Award-winning "sing songs self" for solo piano and orchestra with the NZSO.

Sarah is a graduate of the University of Canterbury (NZ) and went on to earn both MM and DMA degrees from the Juilliard School (NY). She was recently appointed Senior Lecturer in piano at the University of Auckland.

GRACIE FRANCIS

Gracie Francis is a C. V. Starr Doctoral Fellow in Collaborative Piano at the Juilliard School in New York, studying with the support of the Kia Ora Foundation and Kiwi Music Scholarships. During her studies, she has also served the Juilliard community as a Community Service Fellow, Student Congress representative, Diversity Advocate, History Department teaching assistant, Vocal Arts staff pianist, and violin studio pianist for Catherine Cho and Areta Zhulla (Juilliard String Quartet).

Gracie's notable performances since moving to the US include the Naumburg Competition, Carnegie Hall's SongStudio, Young Concert Artists recitals, and the Juilliard Vocal Arts Honors Recital. She has spent her summers exploring more of the US and Europe, as a staff pianist for Spoleto Festival USA in South Carolina, a coach at Berlin Opera Academy, a Vocal Piano Fellow at Tanglewood Music Center in Massachusetts, and a resident artist for the Voice Academy in Aix-en-Provence, France.

At home in New Zealand, Gracie worked as Assistant Director of GALS (Gay and Lesbian Singers) and the Auckland Youth Choir, and as a mentor and music educator in high schools for piano, chamber music, and harpsichord. Gracie received her Bachelor of Music (Honors) in solo piano in 2014 under Rae de Lisle at the University of Auckland, and her Master's in Vocal Collaborative Piano from Juilliard in 2021 as a Fulbright Scholar and Kovner Fellow.

Photo: Lydia Sewell





NATIONAL STRING COMPETITION

HILL FAMILY FOUNDATION
for ARTS AND MUSIC

STRING SEMI-FINALISTS:

TAL AMOORE
AMY CHEN
HAYDEN CHIU
DAMON HERLIHY-O'BRIEN
BOUDEWIJN KEENAN
INGRID KOSAKA
SARAH LEE
HYUN JAE LEE
ROSE LIGHT
ENSHEAN (SHEENA) LIN
ANGEL TAO
MANA WAIARIKI
RYAN YEH
KIMBERLEY YUAN
LORNA ZHANG



STRING SEMI-FINALIST

TAL AMOORE VIOLA | 22 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Schubert Sonata in A Minor, D. 821 (Arpeggione)
Allegro Moderato

Rebecca Clarke Morpheus

Semi-Final Round 2

Caroline Shaw In Manus Tuas

Martin Lodge Pacific Rock

Schumann Märchenbilder, op. 113
Lebhaft

Final Round

Eric Coates First Meeting (Souvenir)

Telemann Fantasia No. 7 for Violin, (arr. for Viola)
Dolce
Allegro
Largo
Presto

Büsser Appassionato, op. 34

Tal Amoore's journey as a violist commenced unusually late at the age of 15 under the guidance of Dr John Thomson, then with Gillian Ansell of the NZ String Quartet. Tal has graced stages across New Zealand, performing with many regional orchestras as well as festivals such as Cuba Dupa, the Fringe Festival, and Classical on Cuba.

As a Rostered Artist of the Afflatus Ensemble, Tal has demonstrated his versatility as both a soloist and principal violist. He founded the Eden Quartet and has participated in the NZSQ's Adam Summer School numerous times, and recently embarked on a recording project with a small ensemble of string players alongside London-based Arjuna Oakes and his band.

Tal has been honoured to be an APO Young Achiever and a Dame Malvina Major Ensemble Rostered Artist. He was also an At the World's Edge Emerging Artist in 2022 and again in 2024.



STRING SEMI-FINALIST

AMY CHEN VIOLIN | 16 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Bach Sonata No. 1 in G Minor, BWV 1001
Adagio

Poulenc Violin Sonata in D Minor, FP119
Presto tragico

Gillian Whitehead Beloved

Semi-Final Round 2

Beethoven Sonata No. 1 in D Major, op. 12, no. 1
Allegro con brio

Ravel Sonata No. 2 in G Major
Allegretto

Ysaÿe Sonata No. 2 for Solo Violin in A Minor, op. 27
Obsession (Prélude)

Final Round

Bach Sonata No. 3 in C Major, BWV 1005
Largo

Louise Webster V is for... Velleity and Vecordious

Sarasate Spanish Dances, op. 21, no. 1
Malaguena

Ravel Sonata No. 2 in G Major
Blues

Amy Chen is a year 12 student at Saint Kentigern College, where she holds the position of College Arts Prefect. She previously studied violin with Stephen Larsen and is now learning under the guidance of Mark Bennett.

As concertmaster in the Saint Kentigern College Symphony Orchestra, Amy's passion for orchestral music extends to her involvement with the NZ Secondary Schools Symphony Orchestra (NZSSSO) and the 2024 NZSO Young Artist Showcase. She has won numerous awards with her chamber group at the NZCT Chamber Music Contest, including National Finalist 2022 and 2024, and Auckland District Best Group Overall this year. Additionally, she won the Young Performer of The Year Award at North Shore Performing Arts Society (NSPAS) and was nominated to compete at the Performing Arts Competitions Association (PACANZ) in 2023.

Amy has also had the honour of playing in events such as the Ning Feng Masterclass and the Auckland String Sessions hosted by the Michael Hill International Violin Competition.



STRING SEMI-FINALIST

HAYDEN CHIU VIOLIN | 14 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Grieg Violin and Piano Sonata No. 3 in C Minor, op. 45
Allegro molto ed appassionato

Gareth Farr Wakatipu

Sarasate Introduction and Tarantella, op. 43

Semi-Final Round 2

Beethoven Violin and Piano Sonata No.1 in D Major, op. 12, no.1
Allegro Con Brio

Szymanowski Mythes, op. 30
La fontaine d'Aréthuse

Ysaÿe Sonata for Solo Violin No. 4 in E Minor, op. 27
Lento Maestoso
Presto ma non troppo

Final Round

Bach Violin Partita No. 3 in E Major, BWV 1006
Preludio

Michael C.W. Bell Ode to a Western Shore (premiere)

Saint-Saëns Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso, op. 28

Hayden Chiu is a year 9 student at Auckland Grammar School. He began violin studies with Dr Elena Abramova, and now learns from Stephen Larsen and Professor Robin Wilson.

Hayden won first prize in the Golden Classical Music Competition in 2019, which led to a performance at Carnegie Hall. He has since been awarded Distinction in Strings for three consecutive years from the APPA/Ara Lodge Music Competition, and attended King's School on a John Henley Music Scholarship. Hayden received chamber and orchestral music coaching from Mark Bennett, Pettman National Junior Academy, Auckland String Quartet Summer School, APO Big Play In, Melbourne Youth Orchestra Summer School, and Manukau Symphony Orchestra.

Hayden's piano trio has earned Highly Commended and Regional Finalist awards from NZCT Chamber Contest in 2021 and 2023. He enjoyed touring as a member of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra National Youth Orchestra in 2022, and was selected as Associate Concertmaster in 2023.

Hayden participated in Piccolo Violino Competition in Italy and performed as soloist with Devonport Chamber Orchestra and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra in 2024.



STRING SEMI-FINALIST

DAMON HERLIHY-O'BRIEN CELLO | 21 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Bach Cello Suite No. 3 in C Major, BWV 1009
Prelude

Martin Lodge Epitaph, in memoriam Douglas Lilburn

Prokofiev Cello Sonata in C Major, op. 119
Andante Grave

Semi-Final Round 2

Beethoven Cello Sonata No. 3 in A Major, op. 69
Allegro ma non tanto

Martinů Cello Sonata No. 2, H. 286
Allegro

Mark Summer Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Final Round

Bach Cello Suite No. 2 in D Minor, BWV 1008
Prelude
Gigue

Schumann Fantasiestücke, op. 73 (Lebhaft, leicht)

Psathas Halo for Cello and Piano
Angelus

Damon Herlihy-O'Brien began playing the cello shortly before his fourth birthday and is currently studying a conjoint BMus/BSc (psychology) degree at The University of Auckland under James Tennant for his cello studies.

In 2021, Damon achieved both the NZQA Top Scholar award for the highest NCEA Scholarship Music score in the country and offer of a prestigious Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship from Waikato University. In 2023, he performed as one of the Emerging Artists in Central Otago's At the World's Edge music festival.

Much in demand as both a soloist and ensemble musician, Damon is the Principal Cello of the Auckland Youth Orchestra (winning the AYO Concerto Competition in 2021), and Principal Cello of the University of Auckland Symphony Orchestra. He also performs as a drummer for the popular heavy metal band Cyanide Altar and is a percussionist for Waitakere Brass. He plays a fine Carboni cello on generous loan to him through the Hill Family Foundation's Instrument Bank.



STRING SEMI-FINALIST

BOUDEWIJN KEENAN CELLO | 21 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Schubert Sonata in A Minor, D. 821 (Arpeggione)
Allegro Moderato

Bloch From Jewish Life: Prayer

Cassado Solo Suite for Cello
Intermezzo e Danza Finale

Semi-Final Round 2

Schumann Adagio and Allegro, op. 70

Gareth Farr Shadow of the Hawk

Final Round

Bach Suite No. 5 in C Minor, BWV 1011
Prelude

de Falla Suite Populaire Espagnole
El paño moruno
Nana
Canción
Asturiana

Ginastera Cello Sonata, op. 49
Allegro con fuoco

Boudewijn Keenan is an Honours level university student studying cello under the tutelage of James Tennant at the University of Auckland. This is his first year studying in Auckland, after completing his undergraduate degree in music at the University of Otago with Dr Heleen du Plessis, majoring in cello performance.

Boudewijn is involved in numerous musical projects of different natures which encompass orchestral, chamber and solo playing. Highlights over the years have included playing in the National Youth Orchestra for four years, including as principal cellist, forming the Passione Quartet this year and winning the Dunedin Concerto Competition in 2023 performing Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations* with full orchestra in the Dunedin Town Hall.



STRING SEMI-FINALIST

INGRID KOSAKA CELLO | 18 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Beethoven Sonata No. 5 in D Major, op. 102 no. 2
Allegro con brio

Chopin Polonaise brillante in C Major, op. 3

Cassadó Requiebros

Semi-Final Round 2

Hindemith Cello Sonata, op. 25, no. 3
Lebhaft, Sehr Markiert
Mäßig Schnell, Gemächlich
Mäßig Schnell

Martin Lodge Epitaph, in memoriam Douglas Lilburn

Popper Hungarian Rhapsody in D major, op. 68

Final Round

Bach Suite No. 1 in G Major, BWV 1007
Prelude

Debussy Beau soir

de Falla Suite Populaire Espagnole
El Paño Moruno
Nana
Canción
Polo
Jota

de Falla Ritual Fire Dance

Ingrid Kosaka is a versatile chamber musician and soloist, currently in her final year of study at Christchurch Girls' High School.

At the age of 15, Ingrid was selected as a soloist for the NZSO Young Soloists Showcase, leading to a performance as a soloist with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra conducted by James Judd. In 2021, she was invited as a guest soloist for a concert tour with the Baroque Music Community and Educational Trust of New Zealand, performing Vivaldi's Concerto for Two Cellos with Tomas Hurnik. In the previous year, she was a semi-finalist in the Performing Arts Competitions Association (PACANZ) National Young Performers' Award Competition.



STRING SEMI-FINALIST

SARAH LEE VIOLIN | 20 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Bach Sonata No.1 in G Minor for Solo Violin, BWV 1001
Adagio
Fugue

Saint-Saëns Havanaise, op. 83

Semi-Final Round 2

Beethoven Violin Sonata No. 7 in C Minor, op. 30, no. 2
Allegro con brio

Gareth Farr Wakatipu

Shostakovich Four Preludes for Violin and Piano, op. 34

Final Round

Schumann Violin Sonata No. 1 in A Minor, op. 105
Mit leidenschaftlichem Ausdruck

Boulangier Nocturne and Cortège

Tchaikovsky Valse-Scherzo, op. 34

Sarah Lee is currently in the second year of her Bachelor of Music degree at The University of Auckland, studying with Stephen Larsen. Her passion for music has led to various achievements, including a Gold award at the NZCT Chamber Music Competition in 2021, second place at the Performing Arts Competitions Association (PACANZ) National Competition in 2022 and receiving the Chiron Lewis Eady Foundation Scholarship the same year.

She has also performed as a first violinist in the NZSO National Youth Orchestra in 2022 and as an Emerging Artist for the 2024 at the World's Edge music festival in Central Otago. Sarah plays on violin on loan to her through the Hill Family Foundation's Instrument Bank.



STRING SEMI-FINALIST

HYUN JAE LEE CELLO | 17 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Bach	Cello Suite No. 6 in D Major, BWV1012 <i>Prelude</i>
Rachmaninoff	Vocalise, op. 34, no. 14
Ginastera	Pampeana No. 2, Rhapsody for Cello and Piano, op. 21

Semi-Final Round 2

Beethoven	Sonata No. 4 in C Major, op. 102 <i>Andante - Allegro vivace</i>
Faure	Trois mélodies No. 1 in C minor, op. 7 <i>Après un rêve</i>
Lyell Cresswell	Atta <i>Mormorante</i> <i>Pellucido</i> <i>Con Fuoco</i>
Final Round	
Schubert	Sonata in A Minor, D. 821 (Arpeggione) <i>Allegro Moderato</i>
Prokofiev	Sonata in C Major, op.119 <i>Moderato - Andante dolce - Moderato primo</i>
Cassadó	Danse du diable vert

Hyun Jae Lee started playing the cello at the age of seven and is currently studying under James Tennant.

Since beginning his cello journey, he has received numerous awards through competitions in New Zealand and overseas. Notably, he was awarded the Most Promising Player at both the Te Awamutu Competition in 2016 and the 12th Akaroa International Music Festival. Hyun Jae has won prizes from the Padova International Cello Competition, the Valsecia Music Competition and the Prague International Music Competition. His dedication to music continues to grow and he aspires to further his music studies.



STRING SEMI-FINALIST

ROSE LIGHT VIOLIN | 20 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Bach Partita No 3 in E Major for Solo Violin, BWV 1006
Gavotte en Rondeau

Tchaikovsky Souvenir d'un lieu cher, op. 42, no. 1, Méditation

Semi-Final Round 2

Mozart Sonata for Piano and Violin in A Major, K. 526
Allegro molto

Douglas Lilburn Sonata for Violin and Piano in E-flat Major
Andante

Shchedrin In the Style of Albeniz, (arr. for Violin and Piano by Zyganow)

Final Round

Franck Sonata in A Major for Violin and Piano
Allegretto ben moderato
Allegro

de Falla Danse Espagnole from La vida breve, (arr. for Violin and Piano by Kreisler)

Rose Light studies violin with Professor Vesna Stankovic and chamber music with Professor Alexander Pavlovsky at Kunstuniversität Graz, Austria. She previously learnt under Michele Walsh and Dr. Martin Riseley.

Her accolades include Second Place at the 2024 Stockholm International Music Competition, First Place at the 2022 International Note-Able Instrumental Competition and Second Place at the 2023 Wellington Concerto Competition. Her string quartet won the 2019 Queensland International Chamber Music Competition (U.18s), and her trio won the Silver Award at the 2021 NZCT Chamber Contest. Rose was selected as a Violin Fellow for the 2023 Michael Hill International Violin Competition.

Rose was awarded the Barbara Finlayson Post-Graduate Scholarship in her second year at university. In 2024, she was accepted into the Stefan Milenkovic Institute and Domaine Forget Academy. She has performed in orchestras under international conductors Daniel Barenboim, Riccardo Muti and Ariel Zuckermann. Rose plays a Riccardo Bergonzi Violin 'Vivace' c.2005, available through a generous loan by the Hill Family Foundation's Instrument Bank.





STRING SEMI-FINALIST

ENSHEAN (SHEENA) LIN VIOLIN | 22 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Beethoven | Sonata No. 4 in A Minor, op. 23
<i>Presto</i> |
| Gillian Whitehead | Bright Silence |
| Wieniawski | Polonaise Brillante No. 1 in D Major, op. 4 |

Semi-Final Round 2

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Bach | Sonata No. 1 in G Minor, BMV 1001
<i>Adagio</i>
<i>Fuga (Allegro)</i> |
| Prokofiev | Sonata No. 1 in F Minor, op. 80
<i>Allegro brusco</i> |
| Ravel | Pièce en forme de Habanera |

Final Round

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Saint-Saëns | Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso, op. 28 |
| Mendelssohn | Violin Sonata in F Major
<i>Allegro</i> |

Enshean (Sheena) Lin started learning the violin at the age of six, and now is a fourth-year student at the University of Auckland, studying with Stephen Larsen. She has performed with ensembles including the National Youth Orchestra and the Auckland Philharmonia.

Her recent musical highlights include performing at the At World's Edge music festival in Central Otago as an Emerging Artist in 2022, and touring 'Another Night in Vienna' with Chamber Music New Zealand in 2021.



STRING SEMI-FINALIST

ANGEL TAO VIOLIN | 13 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Mozart

Violin Sonata in G Major, K. 301
Allegro con spirito

Bach

Sonata No. 2 in A Minor, BWV 1003
Andante

Sarasate

Zigeunerweisen in C Minor, op. 20

Semi-Final Round 2

Brahms

Sonatusatz in C Minor (*Scherzo* from the F.A.E Sonata), WoO 2

Douglas Lilburn

Sonata in B Minor

Final Round

Bartók

Rhapsody No. 1 for Violin and Piano

de Falla

Suite Populaire Espagnole, (arr. by Kochanski)
Nana

Bazzini

Scherzo fantastique in E Minor, op. 25, La ronde des lutins

Angel Wen Tao is a year 9 student at Diocesan School for Girls where she is the recipient of a music scholarship. She studies the violin with Dr John Thomson, participates in the school orchestras and choirs and has served in leadership positions in various ensembles. In 2022 Angel achieved her ATCL in violin performance.

Angel has been awarded the top prize in several music competitions in New Zealand and Singapore. She has been featured as soloist with a number of orchestras, most recently the Manukau Symphony Orchestra. Angel also enjoys playing chamber music on the viola, and this year was selected (on viola) for the national finals of the NZ Chamber Music Competition, as a member of the Debussy Trio.



STRING SEMI-FINALIST

MANA WAIARIKI VIOLIN | 22 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Scarlett Peckham Focus for Solo Violin

Fauré Violin Sonata No. 1 in A Major, op. 13
Finale: Allegro quasi presto

Beethoven Violin Sonata No. 8 in G Major, op. 30, no. 3
Allegro assai

Semi-Final Round 2

Michael Norris Waipounamu for solo violin and fixed electronic sounds

Saint-Saëns Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso, op. 28

Bach Partita No. 2 in D Minor, BWV 1004
Allemande

Final Round

Sarasate Zigeunerweisen, op. 20 (Gypsy Airs)

Te Ahukaramū Reclamations for Violin and Piano
Charles Royal

Bloch Baal Shem: Three Pictures of Chassidic Life
Nigun

Mana Waiariki (Te Whānau-ā-Apanui) is a freelance musician based in Te Whanganui-a-Tara and is currently working full time at the New Zealand String Quartet Trust as a Toi Māori Aotearoa, Māori Arts Intern (MAI).

Mana completed her Bachelor of Music last year, majoring in Classical Violin Performance under the tutelage of Helene Pohl of the NZSQ at Victoria University, Te Kōkī New Zealand School of Music. Mana was generously supported by the Deane Endowment Trust throughout her studies.

As a violinist, Mana has played in art festivals such as the Fringe Festival, Cuba Dupa, and Classical on Cuba and with various orchestras across Aotearoa including the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Dunedin Symphony Orchestra, Hawke's Bay Orchestra and the Nelson Symphony Orchestra. Mana is currently trialling with Orchestra Wellington for a position as a core first violinist. She also teaches at Arohanui Strings and privately and plays a violin on loan to her through the Hill Family Foundation's Instrument Bank.



STRING SEMI-FINALIST

RYAN YE H CELLO | 13 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Psathas	Halo for Cello and Piano <i>Red Halo</i>
Beethoven	Cello Sonata No. 3 in A Major, op. 69 <i>Adagio cantabile - Allegro vivace</i>
Martinů	Variations on Slovakian Theme for Cello and Piano

Semi-Final Round 2

Boccherini	Cello Sonata in A Major <i>Adagio</i> <i>Allegro moderato</i>
Debussy	Sonata for Cello and Piano in D Minor <i>Serenade</i> <i>Finale</i>
Sollima	Lamentatio

Final Round

Debussy	Sonata for Cello and Piano in D Minor <i>Prologue</i>
Psathas	Halo for Cello and Piano <i>Stacia</i>
Popper	Hungarian Rhapsody in D Major, op. 68

Ryan Yeh began studying cello at the age of five and is currently under the tutelage of James Tennant. Ryan is a music scholar and cultural prefect at Saint Kentigern Boys School.

In 2024, Ryan was awarded second place in the New Zealand Note-Able National Instrumental Competition and was the winner in the instrumental section of the Australian Concerto and Vocal Competition in Queensland.

In 2023, Ryan performed with New Zealand Symphony Orchestra as part of the Young Artist Programme. He won third place in the Beethoven Concours Nederland 2023 – Junior Cello Competition and also received Most Promising Player Award at Christchurch National Concerto Competition (2023).

Other awards include first prize at the Gustav Mahler Cello Competition in Category II (2022); a winner in the 2022 Anton Rubinstein International Junior Cello Competition; and winner of the 2020-2021 Vivo International Music Competition Cello Category I.



STRING SEMI-FINALIST

KIMBERLEY YUAN CELLO | 19 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Beethoven Sonata for Cello and Piano No. 4 in C Major, op. 102, no. 1
Andante - Allegro Vivace

Martin Lodge Epitaph, in Memoriam Douglas Lilburn

Chopin Cello Sonata in G Minor, op. 65
Finale. Allegro

Semi-Final Round 2

Bloch From Jewish Life
Prayer

Bright Sheng Seven Tunes Heard in China
Seasons
Little Cabbage
Diu Diu Dong

Cassadó Requiebros

Final Round

Chopin Cello Sonata in G Minor, op. 65
Allegro moderato

Rachmaninoff Sonata for Cello and Piano in G Minor, op. 19
Andante

Ginastera Cello Sonata, op. 49
Allegro con fuoco

Kimberley Yuan is currently under the tutelage of James Tennant, studying a Bachelor of Music majoring in Cello Performance and a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Finance and Commercial Law at the University of Auckland.

In 2019 and 2020, she received First Prize in the Golden Classical International Music Awards Competition, the Brussels Grand Prize Virtuoso International Music Competition, and First Equal in the Pacific International Music Competition. Kimberley has also performed in renowned venues – namely Carnegie Hall and the Sydney Opera House – and was invited to perform at the Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels.

Most recently, she won Third Place and the Audience's Choice Award at the 2022 National Young Performer Awards.



STRING SEMI-FINALIST

LORNA ZHANG VIOLIN | 19 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Bach Violin Sonata No. 2 in A Minor, BWV 1003
Grave
Fuga

Brahms Violin Sonata No. 3 in D Minor, op. 108
Presto agitato

Semi-Final Round 2

Beethoven Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 4 in A Minor, op. 23
Presto

Gareth Farr Wakatipu for Solo Violin

Ysaÿe Sonata for Solo Violin No. 5 in G Major, op. 27

Final Round

Brahms Violin Sonata No. 3 in D Minor, op. 108
Allegro

Ravel Tzigane

Lorna Zhang is currently an undergraduate student at the University of Auckland, majoring in Violin Performance under the guidance of Stephen Larsen.

She was selected as an Emerging Artist for the At the World's Edge music festival 2023 in Central Otago. Lorna received the 2024 ROSL Pettman Scholarship, facilitated by the Royal Overseas League, which funded a career development tour around the northern hemisphere earlier this year. Lorna's chamber group, Kaha Trio, is an 'Aspiring Musicians' ensemble in association with the Auckland Philharmonia.

Lorna has played in masterclasses for international artists such as Ning Feng, Ilya Gringolts and James Ehnes. In 2023, she had the honour of performing with Ning Feng and Sarah Watkins in a performance of Sarasate's Navarra for Two Violins and Piano as part of the Michael Hill International Violin Competition's Auckland String Sessions.

Outside of being a performer, Lorna was awarded second prize in the University of Auckland Lilburn Trust Awards 2023 for her work Space written for solo violin.



“

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PRELIMINARY PIANO ADJUDICATOR

EUGENE ABULESCU

An award-winning artist of international stature, Eugene Abulescu is a celebrated pianist, conductor, multimedia artist, composer and educator based in eastern Pennsylvania.

Winner of the “Grand Prix du Disque Liszt”, Abulescu emerged on the international scene in 1994 when his debut cd “Abulescu Plays Liszt” earned the prestigious award. Since then Abulescu has performed and recorded on four continents. Performances have included recitals, solo concerto appearances and conducting engagements at major venues such as Carnegie Hall in New York, and with major orchestras such as the Romanian National Philharmonic the New Zealand Symphony the French Chamber Orchestra and New York Chamber Orchestra.

His recording credits include broadcasts of live studio performances in large markets that include New York City (WNYC), and Philadelphia (WRTI), national broadcasts on NPR’s “Performance Today”, as well as studio recordings for Radio New Zealand Concert and South African Broadcasting Corporation. Commercial recordings include releases for ODE/ BMG, Naxos, Trust, Downstage and AMP labels. Eugene Abulescu is a Steinway artist who teaches on the music faculty at Lehigh University.

www.eugeneabulescu.com





PIANO ADJUDICATOR

DR PAUL RICKARD-FORD

After completing his BMus at the Melbourne Conservatorium, Paul Rickard-Ford was awarded the Clarke Scholarship to undertake postgraduate studies at the Royal College of Music, London where he gained the ARCM and the Dannreuther Prize for the most outstanding concerto performance.

He has won many major competitions and awards in Australia, including Commonwealth winner of the 1983 ABC's Instrumental & Vocal Competition, and in 1984 was invited to perform before HRH the Duchess of Kent in a recital at the residence of the American Ambassador in London before undertaking further study in the UK as the inaugural David Paul Landa Memorial Scholar in 1986. In 1988 he received an "Australia Achiever" award for his achievements in music, which was presented personally in Sydney by the Prime Minister.

Paul gave recitals in London from late 1988 at St. James's, Piccadilly, Leighton House and a series of recitals at Colnaghi Galleries as well as performing at various festivals throughout England. He remained in London until 1994 when he was appointed as a Lecturer in Piano at the Sydney Conservatorium. He is in demand as a recording artist, recitalist, examiner, adjudicator and master teacher throughout Australia. In 2000 he was invited to give masterclasses at the Beijing Central Conservatory and the Shanghai Conservatory and gave recitals at the Australian Embassy in Beijing and the Shanghai Concert Hall.

In recent years he has been a frequent performer on ABC Classic FM and has recorded Liszt's complete "Annees de Pelerinage", two all Schumann recitals, an all Chopin recital and several "Sunday Live" programs, all of which were broadcast nationally.

He tours Asia annually and regularly visits Malaysia, Taiwan, Singapore, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Beijing, Seoul and Hong Kong giving masterclasses for the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Paul Rickard-Ford presently serves as Senior Lecturer and was Chair of the Piano Unit from 2006-2016. He completed his PhD on the late piano works of Schumann in 2010 and was shortlisted by the University of Adelaide for the University Medal.

His students and former students have achieved outstanding success in local, national and international competitions and have been major prizewinners at important competitions in Australia, New Zealand, China, Hong Kong, Thailand, USA, France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Germany, Croatia, Russia, Denmark and the UK. In both the 2012 and 2016 Sydney International Piano Competitions his students were awarded Best Australian Pianist. He is a pioneer in the field of professional development for piano teachers and is in demand as a guest lecturer at pedagogy conferences throughout Australia. In 2023 he was invited to be a Visiting Professor at Shenyang Conservatory of Music in China.





PIANO SEMI-FINALISTS:

ALEX BAI
WILLIAM BERRY
OZAN BINER-MCGRATH
CIARAN CARROLL
HAO TIAN (PETER) HU
DAVID LI
SHAN LIU
HENRY MENG
JESSE OH
ETHAN RAWHITI-HOTTER
LIFENG (STEVEN) SONG
YIXUAN (WILLIAM) SUN
DYLAN TANG
MADELEINE XIAO
WILLIAM XU



PIANO SEMI-FINALIST

ALEX BAI 14 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Beethoven Sonata No. 7 in D Major, op. 10, no. 3, I, II, III and IV

Kenneth Young A Time and Place There Was

Semi-Final Round 2

Chopin Ballade No. 1 in G Minor, op. 23

Prokofiev Sonata No. 2 in D Minor, op. 14, I, II, III and IV

Final Round

Bach Italian Concerto in F Major, BWV 971, I, II and III

Liszt Three Concert Études, S. 144, No. 3 (Un sospiro)

Debussy L'isle Joyeuse, L. 106

Alex Bai is a Year 9 student at Dilworth School, Auckland. He began learning piano at the age of five and has studied with renowned teachers including Tianhui Zhang (California), Able Zhu, Bryan Sayer, Stephen De Pledge (Auckland), Michael Endres (Christchurch), and Xin Wang (Germany).

Alex has achieved outstanding success in numerous local and international competitions. In 2022, he became the youngest semi-finalist in the prestigious Lewis Eady National Piano Competition. He performed as a soloist with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO) in Wellington in April 2023 and October. His recent solo recitals were held in Auckland and Aachen, Germany.

In addition to his solo work, Alex is passionate about chamber music and regularly performs in retirement villages around Auckland with his friends. He also plays the clarinet and violin in his spare time and enjoys basketball as his favourite sport.





PIANO SEMI-FINALIST

WILLIAM BERRY 21 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Mozart Sonata No. 18 in D Major, K. 576

William Berry Harm of Wills

Scriabin Sonata No. 5, op. 53

Semi-Final Round 2

Beethoven Sonata No. 24 in F-sharp Major, op. 87 (À Thérèse)

Medtner Sonata-Ballade No. 8 in F-sharp Major, op. 27

Final Round

Brahms Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Handel in B-flat Major, op. 24

William Berry, from Lower Hutt, completed his piano performance degree at Victoria University under Dr. Jian Liu in 2023. He has been taught by Elizabeth Marrison, Ludwig Treviranus, and Gillian Bibby.

William has achieved notable success in competitions, winning the 2023 IRMT Wellington Sonata Celebration, and being a semi-finalist in both the 2022 National Concerto Competition and the 2022 Lewis Eady Piano Competition. He also won the 2023 NZSM Concerto Competition, performing Rachmaninoff's Concerto No. 2 with orchestra. In 2022, William was sponsored by Professor Jack C. Richards to attend the Semaine Internationale de Piano in Switzerland, where he was selected to perform as a young artist in 2023. He received the 2023 Upper Hutt Concert Grand Piano Trust Prize and has participated in masterclasses with Boris Berman, Edith Fischer, James Giles and Joyce Yang.

William is currently a second-year law student at Victoria University.





PIANO SEMI-FINALIST

OZAN BINER-MCGRATH 16 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Handel	Suite in F Major, HWV 427
Messiaen	Première communion de la Vierge from <i>Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant- Jésus</i> , XI
Scriabin	Deux Poèmes, op. 69
Schumann	Novellette No. 1 in F Major, op. 21, no. 1

Semi-Final Round 2

Beethoven	Piano Sonata No. 13 in E-flat Major, op. 27, no. 1 (<i>Quasi una fantasia</i>)
Paul Schramm	Girl in White
Brahms	Scherzo in E-flat Minor, op. 4

Final Round

Bach	Partita No. 1 in B-flat Major, BWV 825
Tchaikovsky	Dumka in C Minor, op. 59

Ozan Biner-McGrath, a Year 11 student at Logan Park High School in Dunedin, began piano lessons at a young age with Tom McGrath and John Colwill and has also studied with John Van Buskirk.

He has participated in masterclasses with Antonio Pompa-Baldi, Terence Dennis, and Jian Liu. In 2023, Ozan won the IRMTNZ Otago Branch Senior Scholarship, performed Haydn's D Major Piano Concerto with the Dunedin Collegiate Orchestra, and was a finalist in the Lewis Eady National Junior Piano Competition. He has also excelled in chamber music, leading winning groups in the last three NZCT Otago district contests.

Beyond piano, Ozan plays percussion in the Dunedin Youth Orchestra and enjoys cricket and cooking.





PIANO SEMI-FINALIST

CIARAN CARROLL 22 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Handel	Suite in F Major, HWV 427
Messiaen	Première communion de la Vierge from Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant- Jésus, XI
Scriabin	Deux Poèmes, op. 69
Schumann	Novellette No. 1 in F Major, op. 21, no. 1

Semi-Final Round 2

Beethoven	Piano Sonata No. 13 in E-flat Major, op. 27, no. 1 (Quasi una fantasia)
Paul Schramm	Girl in White
Brahms	Scherzo in E-flat Minor, op. 4

Final Round

Bach	Partita No. 1 in B-flat Major, BWV 825
Tchaikovsky	Dumka in C Minor, op. 59

Ciaran Carroll, originally from Palmerston North, began piano lessons at the age of five. Throughout his schooling, he completed his piano grades, achieving his LTCL with high distinction. Now in his fourth year at the University of Auckland, Ciaran is pursuing a dual degree in Engineering and a Bachelor of Music. He is studying under Stephen De Pledge, whose mentorship has greatly enhanced his technique and musical insight.

Ciaran's piano journey includes performing Grieg's Piano Concerto with the Manawatu Youth Orchestra and competing in national competitions, and regional chamber music competitions with friends.

After completing his studies in New Zealand, Ciaran plans to explore further opportunities overseas, continuing his growth as a musician.





PIANO SEMI-FINALIST

HAO TIAN (PETER) HU 14 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Bach	Prelude in D Major, BWV 874
Mozart	Sonata No. 14 in C Minor, K. 457
Chopin	Étude in A Minor, op. 25, no. 11 (Winter Wind)
McLeod	Rock Sonata No.1, III

Semi-Final Round 2

Beethoven	Sonata No. 30 in E Major, op. 109
Liszt	Transcendental Étude in B-flat Major, S. 139, No. 5 (Feux Follets)
McLeod	Rock Sonata No. 2, III

Final Round

Liszt	Mephisto Waltz No. 1, S. 514
Slavický	Sonáta pro Klavír (Zamyšlení nad životem/Contemplation of Life), II and III
Grainger	In Dahomey (Cakewalk Smasher)

Hao Tian (Peter) Hu is a Year 9 student at Saint Kentigern College. He has achieved both LRSM and LTCL diplomas, along with Grade 8 Theory, and is currently preparing for his FRSM exam this year.

Peter began studying piano at the age of four under the guidance of GaWon Kim and has since won numerous awards in national and international competitions. His accolades include 1st prize at the 2019 Melbourne International Piano and Strings Festival, a Gold award at the 2023 Aegio International Piano Competition, and the Most Promising Under 12 Years Old award at the Te Awamutu Performing Arts Competition. Peter has also excelled in various events like WAPAC, SAPACS, and NSPAS competitions.

In addition to his solo accomplishments, Peter is a skilled chamber musician. His trio was invited to the final round of the 2024 NZCT New Zealand Chamber Music Competition in Wellington.





PIANO SEMI-FINALIST

DAVID LI 22 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Bach	Prelude and Fugue in D Major, BWV 874
Chopin	Ballade No. 2 in F Major, op. 38
David Hamilton	The Bells of Dusk
Liszt	Grandes études de Paganini, No. 3 in G-sharp Minor, S. 141 (La Campanella)

Semi-Final Round 2

Liszt	Hungarian Rhapsody No. 6 in D-flat Major, S. 244
Beethoven	Sonata No. 21 in C Major, op. 53 (Waldstein)

Final Round

Chopin	Ballade No. 1 in G Minor, op. 23
Beethoven	Sonata No. 23 in F Minor, op. 57 (Appassionata)

David Li is a third-year student at the University of Auckland, pursuing a dual major in Classical Piano Performance and Information Systems. Under the guidance of Stephen De Pledge and Rae de Lisle, David has honed his skills as a pianist.

He has received numerous accolades, including the Swedlund Music Bursary Scholarship (2021), 1st prize in the Institute of Registered Music Teachers of New Zealand's DD O'Connor Instrumental and Piano Scholarship (2021), and 2nd prize in the Margaret Doone Sonata Competition (2023). In 2024, he was awarded the Haydn Staples & Auckland Philharmonia Piano Scholarship.

David has extensive experience in both performance and teaching. He has worked as a private piano tutor, theory tutor, and accompanist at WE Music School and Maestro Music School since 2020. An enthusiastic chamber and collaborative pianist, David's piano-percussion quartet also won first prize at the 2023 University of Auckland Chamber Competition.





PIANO SEMI-FINALIST

SHAN LIU 14 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Mozart Piano Sonata No. 18 in D Major, K576, I, II, and III

Ravel Gaspard de la nuit, (Scarbo)

Semi-Final Round 2

Chopin Fantaisie in F Minor, op. 49

Liszt Transcendental Étude No. 4 (Mazeppa)

John Elmsey Three Pieces, I: Prelude, II: Canzonetta, III: Rerere

Final Round

Bach English Suite No. 3, BWV 808

Kaspustin Concert Étude No. 8, op. 40

Scriabin Sonata No. 4 in F-sharp Major, op. 30

Shan Liu is a year 10 student at Westlake Boys High School studying under Stephen De Pledge.

His accolades include First Prize at the 2020 Cesar Franck International Piano Competition (Belgium), the 2022 International Piano Competition for Young Musicians (The Netherlands), and the Gold Award at the 2023 GOCAA New York International Music Competition. Shan also received the 2023 GOCAA Signed Young Artist Award and became the youngest-ever winner of the NZ National Junior Piano Competition. Shan has performed at Carnegie Hall, Sydney Opera House, and Auckland Town Hall. In 2022, he earned acclaim for his solo recital at the International Music Festival Beethoven Orbit in Germany. In 2024, he will participate in the prestigious Morningside Music Bridge Programme in Boston, USA.

Since the age of nine, Shan has appeared as a soloist with various orchestras, including the NZSO, NYO, APO Up Close Concerts, Auckland Symphony Orchestra, Manukau Symphony Orchestra, Bay of Plenty Symphonia, St Matthews Chamber Orchestra, and Orchestra Auckland.





PIANO SEMI-FINALIST

HENRY MENG 20 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Bach Prelude and Fugue in E-flat Major, from the Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I

Liszt Transcendental Études: No. 11 (Harmonies du soir), No. 12 (Chasse-neige), No. 4 (Mazeppa)

Semi-Final Round 2

Henry Meng Festivity and the Parade

Beethoven Piano Sonata No. 28 in A Major, op. 101

Final Round

Chopin Scherzo No. 4 in E Major, op. 54

Rachmaninoff Études-Tableaux, op. 39, no. 3, no. 4, no. 8, no. 9

Henry Meng is a pianist and composer studying at the University of Auckland, where he is mentored by Rae de Lisle and Stephen De Pledge.

As a pianist, Henry has performed with both the Auckland Philharmonia and the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra. In 2023, he won second place in the National Concerto Competition, with his performance of Rachmaninoff's third piano concerto. As a composer, Henry's works have been performed by leading orchestras in New Zealand, including the Auckland Philharmonia and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO). He was the recipient of the 2023 TODD Young Composer's Award, and one of his orchestral pieces, Fanfare, is featured in the NZSO's 2024 concert season.

Henry's dual passion for performance and composition continues to drive his musical journey as he explores new creative avenues in both fields.





PIANO SEMI-FINALIST

JESSE OH 20 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Bac Toccata in E Minor, BWV 914

Mendelssohn Variations Sérieuses, op. 54

Jenny McLeod Tone Clock Piece XXIV

Chopin Étude in A Minor, op. 25, no. 11

Semi-Final Round 2

Tchaikovsky Dumka, op. 59 (Russian Rustic Scene)

Beethoven Sonata No. 30 in E Major, op. 109

Final Round

Liszt Transcendental Étude, No. 10 in F Minor, (Appassionata) S. 139

Ravel Gaspard de la nuit, M. 55

Jesse Oh is in his final year of a Bachelor's degree in Classical Piano Performance at the University of Auckland, where he studies under Sarah Watkins and Bryan Sayer.

He is the recipient of the two-year Kathleen Mary Reardon Memorial Music Scholarship (2023/2024) and was awarded the Llewelyn Jones Prize in Music for Piano. Jesse has achieved first place in several local competitions, including IRMT, SAPACS, WAPAC, and TPACS. A passionate collaborative musician, Jesse has extensive experience working with chamber ensembles and choirs. In 2023, he was awarded First in Course for his university chamber music module and received the Carl and Alberta Rosenfeldt Prize in Chamber Music in 2022. That same year, Jesse joined the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra's Aspiring Musicians Programme, which provided him with numerous performance opportunities.

In addition to his piano achievements, Jesse is also a dedicated violinist and violist, further enriching his musical versatility.





PIANO SEMI-FINALIST

ETHAN RAWHITI-HOTTER 21 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Bach	Prelude and Fugue No. 24 in B Minor, BWV 893 (WTC book II)
Jenny Mcleod	Tone Clock Piece, No. 10, Te Kapowai (Dragonfly)
Salina Fisher	Three Short Pieces, No. 1, Raindrops on a Misty Pond
Mozart	Sonata No. 15 in F Major, K. 533/ 494

Semi-Final Round 2

Chopin	Sonata No. 3 in B Minor, op. 58
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Final Round

Brahms	Rhapsody in B Minor, op. 79, no. 1
Bach	Prelude and Fugue No. 9 in E Major, BWV 878 (WTC book II)
Sofia Gubaidulina	Chaconne, (1962)

Ethan Rawhiti-Hotter is a Wellington-born pianist in his third year of study majoring in piano performance at Victoria University of Wellington. He has studied under Dr. Jian Liu and Emma Sayers.

Ethan has enjoyed performing since he began learning the piano at the age of seven, and has played in many ensembles and groups. In 2023 he performed in an ensemble that won the 2023 NZSM ensemble award. In 2024, Ethan was sponsored by Professor Jack C. Richards to attend the Semaine Internationale de Piano festival in Switzerland, where he participated in Masterclasses with many renowned pianists, including Edith Fischer, François Dumont, and Juan Lago.

Ethan is dedicated to collaborating with other musicians and aims to achieve a career as a teacher and performer.





PIANO SEMI-FINALIST

LIFENG (STEVEN) SONG 13 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Gillian Whitehead

Arapatiki

Beethoven

Sonata No.21 in C Major, op. 53 (Waldstein) I, II, III

Semi-Final Round 2

Bach

Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue in D Minor, BWV903

Chopin

Scherzo No.2 in B-flat Minor, op. 31

Kapustin

Concert Études, op. 40, no.1 (Prelude), no.6 (Pastoral)

Final Round

Debussy

Estampes (Pagodes), (La soirée dans Grenade), (Jardins sous la pluie)

Liszt

Three Concert Études, S144 in D-flat Major No.3 (Un sospiro)

Grandes Études de Paganini, S.141 in A Minor, No.6

Steven Song commenced his piano studies in 2021 and is presently under the tutelage of Stephen De Pledge.

His exceptional talent has earned him notable accolades, including a second-place finish at the North Shore Concerto Competition and multiple awards at local competitions, such as the South Auckland, Christchurch, IRMT, and Singapore International Piano Competitions.

In addition to his achievements in piano, Steven has been learning the clarinet for the past year and currently performs with the Aotea Youth Symphony Orchestra.





PIANO SEMI-FINALIST

YIXUAN (WILLIAM) SUN 21 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Beethoven Sonata No. 31 in A-flat Major, op. 110

Debussy L'isle Joyeuse, L. 106

Semi-Final Round 2

Liszt Années de pèlerinage I, S. 160, No. 6 (Vallée d'Obermann)

Hamilton The Bells of Dusk

Chopin Polonaise No. 5 in F-sharp Minor, op. 44

Final Round

Schubert Three Piano Pieces, No. 1, D. 946

Chopin 12 Études in C Minor, op. 10, no. 12

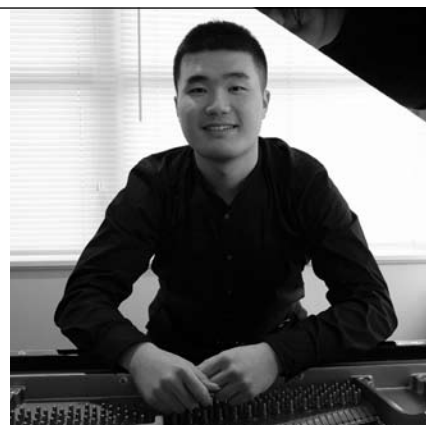
Rachmaninoff 13 Préludes in G-sharp Minor, op. 32, no. 12

Liszt Hungarian Rhapsody No. 11 in A Minor, S. 244

William Sun, a talented pianist and student at the University of Auckland, studies under Rae de Lisle and Justin Bird.

He began his musical journey at age four with his mother, a piano teacher, and has since achieved notable success, including winning two classes at the 2021 North Shore Performing Arts Competitions and receiving prizes in the 2023 Margaret Doone Memorial Piano Sonata Scholarship.

In addition to his piano studies, William showcases his versatility as a trumpet player with the Tian Guo Marching Band, Auckland Youth Orchestra, and University of Auckland Symphony Orchestra.





PIANO SEMI-FINALIST

DYLAN TANG 19 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Bach Prelude and Fugue No. 13 in F-sharp Major, BWV 858

Fauré Nocturne No. 2 in B Major, op. 33, no. 2

Jenny McLeod Rock Sonata No. 2, I

Chopin Polonaise – Fantaisie in A-flat Major, op. 61

Semi-Final Round 2

Beethoven Sonata No. 31 in A-flat Major, op. 110, I, II and III

Liszt Hungarian Rhapsody No. 6 in D-flat Major

Final Round

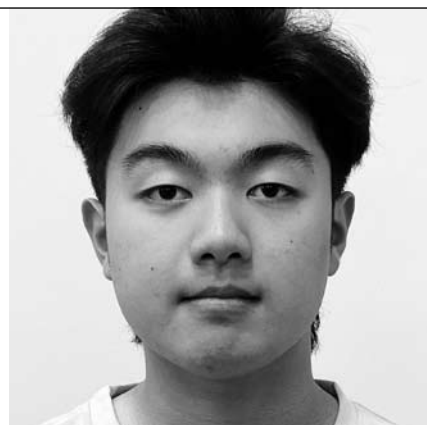
Brahms Intermezzo in A Major, op. 118, no. 2

Beethoven Sonata No. 23 in F Minor, op. 57 (Appassionata) I, II and III

Dylan Tang is a first-year Bachelor of Music student at the University of Auckland, studying piano under Rae de Lisle.

He began playing piano at the age of six and has since won several piano competitions in New Zealand, including the North Shore Performing Arts Competitions (NSPACS), Lewis Eady, and Institute of Registered Music Teachers (IRMT) competitions. Recently, Dylan advanced to the first round of the prestigious Vlassenko Competition.

In addition to piano, Dylan is passionate about the violin, which he started learning at age 11. He has been an active member of both his school's orchestra and chamber orchestra and has participated in chamber music competitions, showcasing his dual talent for both piano and violin.





PIANO SEMI-FINALIST

MADELEINE XIAO 19 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Haydn Sonata No.60 in C Major, Hob. XVI: 50

Kelly Goodnight Kiwi

Tchaikovsky Dumka in C Minor, op. 59

Semi-Final Round 2

Bach-Busoni Chaconne in D Minor, BWV1004

Chopin Ballade No.4 in F Minor, op. 52

Final Round

Scarlatti Sonata in E Major, K.135

Chopin Sonata No.3 in B Minor, op. 58

Madeleine Xiao completed her Bachelor of Music at the University of Auckland under Rae de Lisle, Bryan Sayer, and Katherine Austin.

She has achieved top awards and scholarships internationally, performing in New Zealand, Australia, Italy, Germany, and the UK in 2024, Madeleine reached the semifinals of the Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition and won the Best NZ Pianist Award. She also received the Pettman Royal-Overseas-League Scholarship, supporting a career development tour across Europe. Madeleine has won the University of Auckland Concerto Competition, and the Auckland Youth Orchestra Piano Concerto Competition, and collaborated with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and Benjamin Northey.

As a chamber musician, she has performed with renowned artists and been featured in the At the World's Edge (AWE) Festival. She is a Haydn Staples Auckland Philharmonia Piano Scholar for 2023/2024 and her ensemble, Kaha Trio is an Auckland Phil 'Aspiring Musicians' Ensemble, having been invited to perform across NZ and regarded as one of the top up-and-coming young ensembles.





PIANO SEMI-FINALIST

WILLIAM XU 14 YEARS

Semi-Final Round 1

Beethoven Sonata No. 2 in A Major, op. 2, no. 2

Leonie Holmes Fantasia

Semi-Final Round 2

Scarlatti Sonata K290 and Sonata K291

Chopin Ballade No. 2 in F Major

Messiaen Prelude No. 2, Chant d'extase dans un paysage triste

Debussy Feux d'artifice

Final Round

Liszt Concert Étude No.1, Waldesrauschen

Rachmaninoff Prelude in G Major, op. 32, no. 5

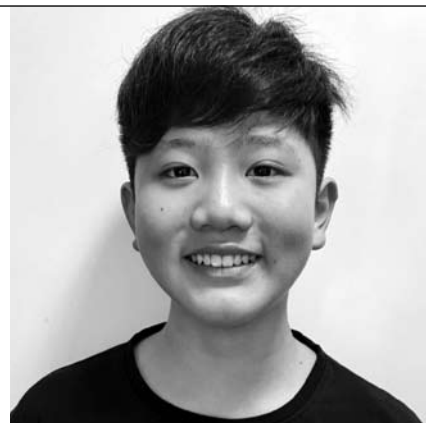
Rachmaninoff Prelude in G Minor, op. 23, no. 5

Brahms Rhapsody, op. 79, no. 1

William Xu has recently started college and has been studying piano for seven years under Stephen De Pledge and Jian Liu.

He has earned gold and first-place awards in several local competitions and achieved second place in the Ming Classical International Competition in Switzerland. In 2022, William was awarded a piano scholarship from the Chiron Lewis Eady Foundation.

In addition to piano, William plays the cello and trumpet, receiving a music scholarship at St Kentigern College. He loves to be involved in various musical activities, such as chamber music, concert band, and choir.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank our many supporters that have helped make these national competitions happen.

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The Competitions reserve the right to vary artists or programmes without notice.

Latecomers will not be admitted until a suitable break in the performance.

Please consider others and mind that cough. A hand or handkerchief placed over the mouth greatly reduces the volume.

Please turn off all watch alarms, paging devices and mobile telephones before entering the concert hall.

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Sketch by Sir Michael Hill

The Chiron Lewis Eady Foundation – CLEF – was formed in 2022 as a collaboration between two charitable organisations; the Chiron Charitable Trust and the Lewis Eady Charitable Trust. Our mission is to provide a comprehensive platform that nurtures the development of young musicians across New Zealand through high-quality performance and educational opportunities, as well as financial support through our scholarship programmes.

CLEF is proud to offer a range of unique opportunities to musicians at all levels – from Primary through to Tertiary – helping them pursue their musical aspirations both in New Zealand and abroad. Our projects and competitions aim to inspire and support the next generation of musicians.

CLEF COMPETITIONS:

- Lewis Eady Junior Music Contest
- Lewis Eady National Junior Piano Competition
- Lewis Eady National Piano Competition
- Lewis Eady International Piano Festival



Together we are building a future society where creativity is encouraged, and artists are valued through our approach and your support.

We are deeply grateful to our generous donors, key sponsors, and dedicated volunteers, whose support enables us to continue offering these vital opportunities. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to you, our classical music audience, for joining us on this journey of nurturing talent and fostering creativity.

A special congratulations to our string and piano semi-finalists, whose hard work and dedication have brought them to this stage. We wish you all the best as you continue your musical journey.

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