

9th
International
Competition
for Young Pianists



09-13.04.2025
Brussels,
Belgium

Merci,
Maestro!



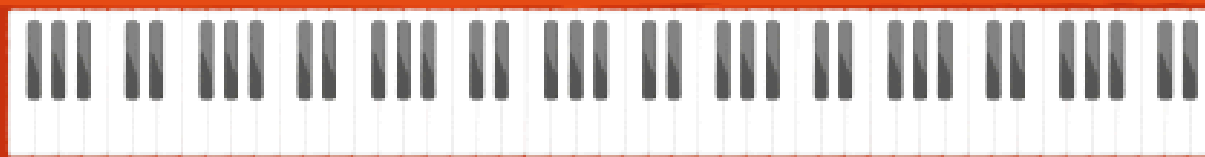
PROGRAM 2025

FIRST & FINAL ROUNDS

Piano's Maene Brussels
Rue de l'Argonne, 37
April 9-12th, 2025

GALA CONCERT

Brussels Town Hall
Gothic Room, Grand Place
April 13th, 2025



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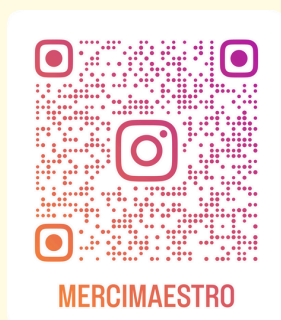
International Competition for Young Pianists



Merci,
Maestro!

2025

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 **Merci,
Maestro!**

Dear Participants,

Welcome to the ninth edition of the International Competition for Young Pianists “Merci, Maestro!” 2025! This year, we have selected **56** participants from **74** 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

Founder & Artistic Director

International Competition for Young Pianists “Merci, Maestro!” 2025

JURY MEMBERS



Nataliya Chepurenko (Belgium/Ukraine)

President of jury, founder, artistic director 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 Master in Residence 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.



Pietro Sellitto (Italy)

Music teacher at the Italian public school and founder of the International Music Competition CIMN at Italy. He is also a director of chamber, choral and orchestral music, in Italy and abroad. Founder of the Accademia Musicale Nocera and president of the Associazione di Cultura Musicale di Sant’ Anna in Nocera Inferiore (SA)- at the moment known as Associazione Musica Nova-, since 2013, he is also the organizer of many significant cultural events during which renowned artist of the opera, classical and contemporary music world are involved.



Lyudmyla Zakopets (Ukraine)

Professor of piano at the Lviv State Music Lyceum named after Solomiya Krushelnytska (Ukraine). Coordinator & Professor of International Piano Forum “Beshchady bez kordoniv” (Poland). She is also an organizer and director of the first international young pianist competition “Feurich-virtuos” in Lviv and “Bechstein”. Over the years of teaching, the achievements are: 90 prizewinners of international and national competitions, 40 performances with symphonic and chamber orchestras in Ukraine, Germany, Poland and other countries.

JURY MEMBERS



Michail Markov (Netherlands)

Founder and the artistic leader of the International Piano Competition for Young Musicians in Enschede, The Netherlands. Since 1991, he has been living in the Netherlands where he has continued his successful combination of teaching and musical performances. Since mid-nineties he is working as professor at the piano department of the ArtEZ Conservatory in Enschede, the Netherlands. He is also the co-founder of the special Young Talents piano department of this Conservatory. He has been invited to give Master Classes at many International Music Festivals and Summer Schools in the Netherlands, USA, Austria, Poland and Ukraine.



Tamara Kordzadze (Switzerland)

Professor of piano at the Zurich Conservatory. President of Association "Unite Classics" and "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. Jury Member at international Competitions.



Milana Chernyavska (Germany)

Professor of Piano at the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz (Austria) & Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía (Madrid, Spain). 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 Blüthner Goldaward (Vienna).



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.

Competition Schedule

FIRST ROUND

- CATEGORY E: Wednesday, 9th April 2025 | 09:00-13:45
- CATEGORY F: Wednesday, 9th April 2025 | 14:00-17:00
- CATEGORY C: Thursday, 10th April 2025 | 09:00-12:30
- CATEGORY D: Thursday, 10th April 2025 | 12:45-17:30
- CATEGORY B: Friday, 11th April 2025 | 09:30-11:00
- CATEGORY A: Friday, 11th April 2025 | 11:15-14:00

FINAL ROUND

- CATEGORY E, F: Friday, 11th April 2025 | from 15:00
- CATEGORY A, B, C, D, E, F: Saturday, 12th April 2025 | from 09:00

Competition Venue:

Piano's Maene Brussels:
Rue de l'Argonne 37, 1060 Bruxelles

GALA CONCERT

of the winners

13th April 2025 (SUN)

18:00

Gothic Room,

Brussels Town Hall

Grand-Place



Merci, Maestro!
9th international competition for young pianists

Gala Concert
of the winners
Classical music (Piano solo) | Reception after the concert

Sunday
13th April 2025
18h00
Brussels Town Hall
Gothic Room
Grand Place

Ticket Prices:
•Children (9-12 years): 10 Euros
•Young adults (13-18 years): 20 Euros
•Adults (>18 years): 50 euros
•from 65 years old and above: 40 euros
Children <8 years old are not allowed at the Gala Concert

Info & ticket reservation: +32 496 48 87 80 | info@mercimaestro.be | www.mercimaestro.be

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ticket reservation



CATEGORY A

(age 10 and below)



Aaron Yijia Gu
(Age 9, China)

Winner of the Edinburgh Music Competition Festival and the International Youth Talent Musician Competition.

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N2 c minor,
BWV 847

F.Chopin: Etude Op.25 N2 f minor

C.Deubussy: Children's Corner, L.113 N1
Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum

Final Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N2 c minor,
BWV 847

C.Deubussy: Arabesque N1



Heda Hou
(Age 10, Netherlands)

Winner of the Junior Competition, the 26th Santa Cecilia International Piano Competition (Portugal, 2024) and the 56th International Piano Contest - Virtuosi per Musica di Pianoforte, Ústí nad Labem (Czech Republic, 2023).

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: Invention N9 f minor, BWV 780

M.Moszkowski: Etude

J.Haydn: Sonata in D Major, 3rd mov

Final Round Program:

J.S.Bach: Invention N9 f minor, BWV 780

I.Berkovich: Toccata



Osamu Ishimaru
(Age 7, Japan)

Winner of the 5th in Beten Music Competition 2023 (Japan).

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: Minuet in G Major, BWV Anh.116

F.Burgmüller: Etude Op.109 N1 "Confidence"

M.Clementi: Sonatina Op.36 N2 in G major

Final Round Program:

J.S.Bach: Minuet in G Major, BWV Anh.116

M.Clementi: Sonatina Op.36 N2 in G major

A.Yuyama: Confections A Piano Sweet N2
"Baumkuchen"



Nora Kostenko
(Age 10, Ukraine)

Winner of the Kharkiv Meets Zurich, 15th International Competition Volodymyr Krainev for Young Pianists; 26th International Piano Competition of Brest; 10th Piano Competition of E.Stankovych and 3rd International Competition of F.Samson for Young Musicians.

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: French Suite N5 in G major, Allemande,
BWV 816

C.Czerny: Etude N21, Op. 299

I.Shamo: Prelude N8, "Quasi Campana"

Final Round Program:

J.S.Bach: Partita N3 in a minor, BWV 827: Scherzo

F.Schubert: Impromptu N2, Eb Major



Oleksandr Kostyshyn
(Age 8, Ukraine)

Winner of the 5th Franz Liszt Center International Piano Competition (2025); the International Competition in Orbetello, Italy (2024), the 15th International Competition of Young Pianists named after Vladimir Krainev "Kharkiv meets Zurich" in Uster, Switzerland (2024).

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: 3-voice Fugue in C Major

M.Moszkowski: Etude Op.72 N6

L.Revutsky: Waltz

Final Round Program:

J.S.Bach: 3-voice Fugue in C Major

F.Chopin: Minute Waltz (Op. 64 N1)

L.C.Daken: Cuckoo



Agnia Kovaleva
(Age 8, Belgium)

Winner of the Rencontres Internationales des Jeunes Pianistes, Epta Belgium and the Concorso Musicarte , Salento (Italy) and International Competition MUSIC ACADEMY FORTE 2023.

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: Invention 15 in b minor, BWV 786

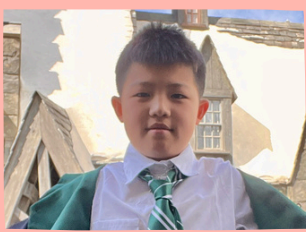
F.Burgmüller: Les Perles Op.109 N2

E.Grieg: Der Kobold

Final Round Program:

J.S.Bach: Invention 15 in b minor, BWV 786

A.Copland: The Cat and the Mouse



Oscar Liu
(Age 10, Ireland)

Winner of the Feis Ceoil Ireland Piano Solo Duet under 10, Feis Ceoil Piano Solo under 11, and the Kilcoole music festival Piano Solo under 9.

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: Sinfonia N15 in b minor
F.Liszt: Paganini Etude N5 "The Hunt"
R.Schumann: Child Falling Asleep

Final Round Program:

J.S.Bach: Partita N5 in G Major
F.Chopin: Fantastie - Impromptu



Emma Mamaieva
(Age 9, Ukraine)

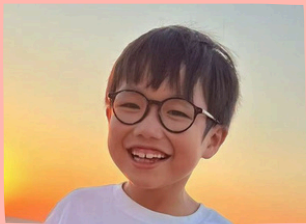
Winner of the III All-Ukrainian Piano Music Competition "AURORA" (2024), Participant of the Workshop "Peace -Music - Freedom" of the Emcy Association master classes and Scholarship holder of the Maybutny Music School Charitable Foundation "Vere music fund".

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: French Suite N3 in b minor "Menuet",
BWV814
M.Moszkowski: Etude Op.18 N3 G Major
I.Berkovich: Prelude E Major

Final Round Program:

J.S.Bach: French Suite N3 in b minor "Menuet",
BWV814
W.Gillock: Moonlight mood, "Valse - Etude"



Ethan Ng
(Age 7, Belgium)

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: Two-part Invention N13 in a minor,
BWV 784
C.Czerny: Etude Op. 299 N4 in C major,
School of Velocity
A.Ginastera: 3 Danzas Argentinas: N1
Danza del viejo boyero

Final Round Program:

J.S.Bach: Two-part Invention N13 in a minor,
BWV 784
W.A.Mozart: Sonata in C Major, K.545,
3rd mov: Rondo: Allegretto
A.Ginastera: 3 Danzas Argentinas: N1
Danza del viejo boyero



Rosalin Qin
(Age 7, Belgium)

Winner of the Classical International Music Competition IYMC of USA 2023.

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: Two-part invention N4 in d minor, BWV 775
F.Burgmüller: Etude Op.109 N2 "Les perles"
L.V.Beethoven: Sonata in G major Anh.5,
2nd Mov. "Romanze"

Final Round Program:

J.S.Bach: Two-part invention N4 in d minor,
BWV 775
F.Burgmüller: Etude Op.109 N2 "Les perles"
W.A.Mozart: Das butterbrot k Anh. 284n



Pavlo Rovchak
(Age 10, Ukraine)

Winner of the III All-Ukrainian Piano Music Competition "AURORA" (2024), Scholarship holder of the Maybutny Music School Charitable Foundation and participants of concerts of the Charity Fund "Vere music fund".

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: French Suite N6 in E Major, BWV817,
"Allemande", "Courante"
F.Liszt: Etude N4 in d minor
E.Grieg: The Poet's Heart

Final Round Program:

J.S.Bach: French Suite N6 in E Major, BWV817,
"Allemande", "Courante"
F.Chopin/F.Liszt: Bacchanal



Jingshu Shi
(Age 9, China)

Winner of the 56th International Piano Contest Virtuosi per Musica di Pianoforte (2023) and the Santa Cecilia International Piano Competition - CISC (2024).

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: Invention N2 in c minor, BWV 773
C.Czerny: Etude Op. 299 N.16 in G Major
F.Chopin: Minute Waltz Op. 64 N1

Final Round Program:

J.S.Bach: Invention N2 in c minor, BWV 773
W.A.Mozart: Sonata N16 C Major, K 545:
I Allegro, II Andante, III Rondo



Huaijie Wang
(Age 10, China)

Winner of the Piano Art of the Meijia Foreign Language School Harbin, China.

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N1 C Major,
BWV 846
F.Chopin: Etude Op.25 N2

Final Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N1 C Major,
BWV 846
C.Debussy: Arabesque N1 E major



Freddy Wu
(Age 10, Austria)

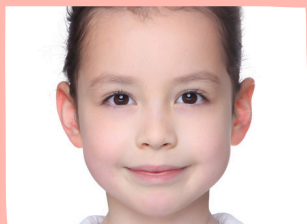
Winner of the Steinway Beijing Division.

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N21 Bb Major,
BWV866
M.Moskovski: Etude Op72 N11
W.A.Mozart: Sonata in D Major KV311

Final Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude & Fugue" N2 c minor,
BWV847
F.Schubert: Impromptus Op. 90 N3



Yihan-Laura Xu
(Age 8, China)

Winner of the International Young Pianist Competition (Shanghai, 2021).

First Round Program:

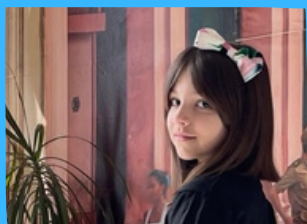
J.S.Bach: Kleine Praludien, BWV 930
F.Burgmüller: Etude La Tarentelle Op.100 N20
F.Chopin: Minute Waltz, Op.64 N1
W.A.Mozart: Sonata in F Major, KV332

Final Round Program:

J.S.Bach: Kleine Praludien, BWV 935
F.Chopin: Op.64 No.2
J.Haydn: Sonata in G Major, Hob.XVI 27:
Allegro con brio

CATEGORY B

(age 11 to 13)



Kera Ignatova
(Age 11, Bulgaria)

Winner of the Astana Stars (Euro Stars) 2023 and Craiova Piano 2024.

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: Two-Part Inventions N4 in d minor
C.Czerny: Etude Op. 299, N11
C.Czerny: Etude Op. 636, N5
M.Clementi: Sonatina Op. 36 N6 in C Major, Allegro

Final Round Program:

W.A.Mozart: Sonata Op. 40 N5 in G Major, Allegro
J.S.Bach: French Suite N3, Allemande
F.Chopin: Prelude Op. 28 N15



Mykhailo Kobetskyi
(Age 13, Ukraine)

Winner of the III INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION ODESA MUSIC OLYMP (2022), the II INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION OF PIANISTS NAMED AFTER MARIA AND NATALIYA YESHCHENKO (2023), and the III ALL-UKRAINIAN COMPETITION OF PIANO MUSIC AURORA (2024).

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude & Fugue" N12 f minor,
BWV 881
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N4 c# minor
S.Bortkiewicz: Esquisses de Crimé Op. 8: IV Chaos

Final Round Program:

J.Haydn: Sonata in Eb Major Hob.XVI: 52, 1st mov
M.Skoryk: Waltz from Partita N5
F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N4 c# minor



Vladimir Kolarski
(Age 12, Serbia)

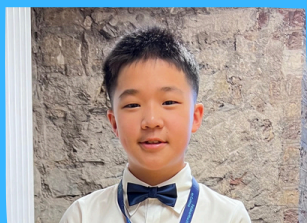
Currently studying in Armenia, winner of the XIV International Festival of Arts ART MUSIC, nomination "Piano" (Armenia, 2023) and the IV International Competition of Performing Art (Piano).

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude and Fugue" N1 C Major,
BWV 846
F.Liszt: Étude en 12 Exercices, S.136 - N2
A.Ginastera: Danzas argentinas Op. 2 N2,
Danza de la moza donosa

Final Round Program:

W.A.Mozart: Piano Sonata N2 F Major, K.280,
1st mov: Allegro assai
F.Liszt: Étude en 12 Exercices, S.136 - N2
E.Grieg: Scenes of Country Life -
Carnival Scene, Op. 19 N3



Jayden Liu
(Age 12, Ireland)

Winner of the Feis Ceoil 2024 Piano Solo Under 12, Feis Ceoil 2024 Piano Solo Duet Under 12, and Kilcoole Music Festival 2024 Piano Solo Under 12.

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: Sinfonia N15 in B minor
F.Burgmüller: Agitato Op.109 N8
C.Chaminade: Automne N2 from
Six Etudes de Concert

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata Op.10 N1 in c minor
F.Chopin: Fantaisie - Impromptu
B.Bartók: Ostinato N146 from Mikrokosmos



Elin Qin
(Age 12, Belgium)

Winner of the YMC-USA International Classical Music Competition (2023).

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: Three-part invention N11 in g minor,
BWV 797
F.Burgmüller: Etude Op.109 N6
"Light-hearted maiden"
F.Chopin: Minute waltz Op.64 N1

Final Round Program:

M.Clementi: Sonata in F# Major Op.25 N5,
1st mov "Allegro con espressione"
J.S.Bach: Three-part invention N11 in g minor,
BWV 797
F.Chopin: Minute waltz Op.64 N1



Marc Albert Staicovici
(Age 12, Romania)

Winner of the 14th Avantgarde Piano Competition, the Nouvelle Étoiles (France), and the European Virtuoso Music Awards (Germany).

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: Invention 12 in A Major, BWV 783
F.Liszt: Etude in d minor Op. 1 N4
I.Berkovich: Variations on a theme of Paganini

Final Round Program:

J.Haydn: Sonata in b minor, Hob XVI:32, 1st mov
I.Berkovich: Variations on a theme of Paganini
K.Slavický: 12 Small Studies 1,2,3,12



Mariia Yermak
(Age 12, Ukraine)

Winner of the international Mozartion competition, AMADEUS 2020, Brno (Czech Republic), the International Stankovych Competition (Ukraine, 2021), diploma with distinction at the 29th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition for Children and Youth in Szafarnia (Poland, 2022)

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude and Fugue" N5 D Major,
BWV 850
F.Chopin: Etude Op. 10 N5
O. Saratskyi: Sydyti mlada ("Maiden sitting") - jazz
arrangements of Ukrainian songs from the cycle "Cvite
teren"

Final Round Program:

W.A.Mozart: Sonata N10 C Major, KV.330,
1st mov: Allegro moderato
C.Debussy: Deux Arabesques N1
C.Debussy: Children's Corner, L.113 N1
Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum

CATEGORY C

(age 14 to 16)



Martin Bajer
(Age 16, Czech Republic)

Winner of the IX. DANUBIA TALENTS INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION, the IX Future Stars International Piano Competition and the INTERNATIONAL MOZART COMPETITION VIENNA .

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude and Fugue" N21 Bb Major,
BWV 866
F.Liszt: Etude, Waldenrauschen S. 145
B.Smetana: Czech dances - Furiant

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata "Pathétique" 3rd mov - Allegro
B.Smetana: Czech dances - Furiant
B.Bartok: Three Hungarian Folk Songs
F.Chopin: Etude Op. 25 N12 "Ocean"



Léo D'hose
(Age 14, Belgium)

Winner of the 2^o International piano competition "Bell' Arte".

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude and Fugue" N6 d minor,
BWV 875
F.Chopin: Etude Op. 10 N12 "Revolutionary"
F.Chopin: Etude Op. 25 N12 "Ocean"
W.A.Mozart: Sonata N14 in c minor, K.457, 1st mov

Final Round Program:

W.A.Mozart: Sonata N14 in c minor, K.457, 1st mov
F.Chopin: Etude Op. 25 N12 "Ocean"
J.Brahms: Rhapsodie N1 in b minor Op. 79



Konstantinos Drosinakis
(Age 15, Greece)

Received scholarship to a Masterclass in Pistoia, Italy and winner of the International Competition FORTE.

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude and Fugue" N15 G Major,
BWV 884
F.Chopin: Étude Op. 25 N9
F.Schubert: Impromptu D. 899 Op. 90 N4 Ab Major

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: Grande Sonate Pathétique Op. 13-1st mov
F.Chopin: Mazurka Op. 24 N1 g minor
F.Chopin: Mazurka Op. 24 N3 Ab Major



Clovis Gobry
(Age 15, France)

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude and Fugue" N6 d minor,
BWV 851

F.Chopin: Etude Op. 10 N9

C.Debyssy: Rêverie L 68

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata N1 f minor Op.2 N1 (1st, 2nd, 4th mov)

A.Webern: Kinderstück



Mishel Kostenko
(Age 15, Ukraine)

Winner of the Kharkiv Meets Zurich, 15th International Volodymyr Krainev Competition for Young Pianists (2024) and the 26th International Piano Competition of Brest (2024).

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude and Fugue" N10 e minor,
BWV 855

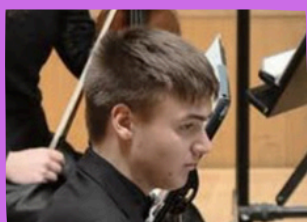
F.Chopin: Etude Op. 25, N12 c minor

J.Brahms: Rhapsody in g minor, Op.79 N2

Final Round Program:

J.Haydn: Sonata N60 C major, 1st mov

F.Mendelssohn: Rondo Capriccioso, Op. 14



Ondrej Sýkora
(Age 16, Slovakia)

Winner of the Danubia talents piano competition and the Young talents for europe piano competition.

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude and Fugue" N6 d minor,
BWV 875

M.Moszkowski: Etude Op. 72 N6 in F Major

F.Liszt: Sonetto del Petrarca N104

Final Round Program:

W.A.Mozart: Sonata N10 C Major, K.330

F.Chopin: Scherzo Op. 20 N1 b minor



Nelis Vernik
(Age 16, Estonia)

Winner of the Internationalen Béla Bartók Klavierwettbewerb in Graz (2024), International Competition of Young Pianists in Valmiera devoted to Jautriite Putniņa (2023) and Best Young Instrumentalist Estonia (2023).

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude and Fugue" N9 E Major,
BWV 854

F.Liszt: Transcendental Étude N7 "Eroica"

A.Pärt: Sonatina Op. 1 N2

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata N17 d minor, Op. 31 N2
- 1st mov

F.Chopin: Ballade N2 F major, Op. 38



Sebastian Congyi Wang
(Age 14, United Kingdom)

Winner of the London Overseas Musicians League International Piano Competition (2024), the Nottingham Young Musician competition (2023), and the Leicester Music Festival Advanced Piano Recital.

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude and Fugue" N5 D Major,
BWV 874

F.Liszt: Etude de Concert S144 N2, La Leggerezza

B.Bartok: Dance in Bulgarian Rhythm N6, N153

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: "Les Adieux" Sonata N26 Eb Major,
Op. 81a - 3rd mov

F.Liszt: Etude de Concert S144 N2, La Leggerezza

F.Chopin: Etude in F major Op. 10 N8



Chenrui Zhang
(Age 15, China)

Winner of the 9th Hongkong International Piano Invitation Competition (2019), the Austria Mozart International Piano Competition (2017) and the 5th Vienna Mozart International Piano Competition (2021).

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude and Fugue" N3 C# Major,
BWV 848

F.Chopin: Etude Op. 10, N12

F.Chopin: Nocturne c# minor Op.27 N1

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata Op. 27 N1

F.Chopin: Ballade N4 f minor Op. 52

CATEGORY D

(age 17 to 19)



Ario Bashirtash
(Age 17, Belgium)

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude and Fugue" N3 C# Major,
BWV 848

F.Liszt: Three Concert Etudes S144 N3 Db Major
"Un Sospiro"

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata N23 Appassionata - 3rd mov

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata N23 Appassionata - 3rd mov
F.Chopin: Ballade N1 g minor Op. 23



Ivanna Davydiuk
(Age 19, Ukraine)

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude and Fugue" N24 b minor,
BWV 893

C.Saint-Saëns: Etude Op. 111 N6

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata N18 Eb Major, Op. 31 No3
- 1st mov Allegro

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata N18 Eb Major, Op. 31 No3
- 1st mov Allegro

R.Schumann: Allegro in b minor, Op. 8



Tibo Glowczynski
(Age 17, Belgium)

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude and Fugue" N15 G Major,
BWV 860

F.Chopin: Étude in c minor, Op. 10 N12

W.A.Mozart: Sonata N13 Bb Major, K. 333
- 1st mov Allegro

Final Round Program:

W.A.Mozart: Sonata N13 Bb Major, K. 333
- 1st mov Allegro

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude and Fugue" N15 G Major,
BWV 860

F.Chopin: Étude in c minor, Op. 10 N12

D.Scarlatti: Sonata in d minor, K. 9 (L. 413)



Daniele Grassi
(Age 17, Italy)

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude and Fugue" N6 d minor,
BWV 875

F.Chopin: Etude Op. 10 N4

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata N21 C Major, Op.53

"Waldstein", 1st mov- Allegro con brio

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata N21 C Major, Op.53

"Waldstein", 1st mov- Allegro con brio

F.Liszt: Mephisto Waltz N1



Zsombor Horváth
(Age 18, Hungary)

Winner of the Danubia Talents Budapest 2023.

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude and Fugue" N11 F Major,
BWV 856

F.Liszt: Transcendental Etude N11
- Harmonies du Soir

J.Haydn: Sonata in c minor, Hob. XVI:20
- 1st mov Moderato

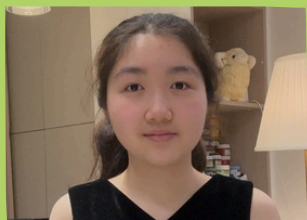
Final Round Program:

J.Haydn: Sonata in c minor, Hob. XVI:20
- 1st mov Moderato

J.Brahms: Rhapsodie in b minor Op. 79 N1

C.Debussy: Preludes Book I N10

"La Cathédrale engloutie"



Shiyi Liu
(Age 17, China)

Winner of the 7th KAWAI Asian Piano Competition.

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude and Fugue" N2 c minor,
BWV 871

F.Chopin: Etude Op. 10 N8

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata Op. 31 N3 - 1st mov

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata Op. 31 N3 - 1st mov

M.Ravel: Sonatine M.40 - 1st mov

F.Chopin: Scherzo Op. 39



Yurii Nechypor
(Age 18, Ukraine)

Winner of the 1000 UAH at the Paderewski Competition.

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude and Fugue" N20 a minor,
BWV 889
F.Liszt: Grandes Études de Paganini N6 a minor
J.Haydn: Sonata N62 in Eb Major, HobXVI52

Final Round Program:

J.Haydn: Sonata N62 in Eb Major, HobXVI52
S.Bortkiewicz: Piano Sonata N2 in c# minor, Op. 60
- 1st and 2nd mov



Magdalena Pflüger
(Age 17, Germany)

Winner of the Bechstein International Piano Competition (2024), National Competition (Bundeswettbewerb) Jugend Musiziert (2024) and National Competition (Bundeswettbewerb) Jugend Musiziert (2023).

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude and Fugue" N15 G Major,
BWV 884
F.Liszt: Transcendental Etude N10 f minor
W.A.Mozart: Sonata N12 F Major, KV 332
- 3rd mov Allegro assai

Final Round Program:

W.A.Mozart: Sonata N12 F Major, KV 332
- 1st mov Allegro
F.Chopin: Polonaise-Fantaisie, Ab Major, Op. 61
P.Hindemith: Suite 1922, Op. 26 N5 Ragtime



Tristan Razai
(Age 17, Germany)

Winner of the Jugend musiziert Bundeswettbewerb.

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude and Fugue" N6 d minor,
BWV 875
F.Liszt: Transcendental Etude N1
L.V.Beethoven: "Appassionata" Sonata N23, Op 57
- 2nd & 3rd mov

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: "Appassionata" Sonata N23, Op 57
- 2nd & 3rd mov
F.Liszt: Hungarian Rhapsody N11



Sin U Sou
(Age 19, Macau)

Winner of the London Overseas Musician League - International Piano Competition (2025), PREMIA International Young Artists Music Festival and "Sound of Music" Australia - China International Music & Arts Competition Greater Bay Area Competition (2024).

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude and Fugue" N23 B Major,
BWV 892
F.Chopin: Etude in C major Op. 10 N7
L.V.Beethoven: Sonata N26 in Eb Major,
"Les Adieux" - 1st mov

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata N26 in Eb Major,
"Les Adieux" - 1st mov
F.Chopin: 3 Mazurkas Op. 59
F.Chopin: Etude in C major Op. 10 N7



Maria-Louisa van Staden
(Age 17, Romania)

Winner of the Feurich International Piano Competitions (Vienna, 2016), the Munich Piano Competition (2021) and the Cesar Franck International Piano Competition (2020).

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude and Fugue" N5 D Major,
BWV 850
F.Chopin: Etude Op. 25 N5
L.V.Beethoven: Sonata Op. 90, N27 - 1st mov

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata Op.90, N27 - 1st mov
F.Chopin: Prelude Op. 28 N13-18



Tomasz Widlak
(Age 19, Poland)

Winner of the 33rd 'Chopin Piano Roma' International Piano Competition (Rome, 2024), 'WPTA SPAIN' International Piano Competition (2024) and 2nd International Music Competition 'Gloria Artis' (Vienna, 2022).

First Round Program:

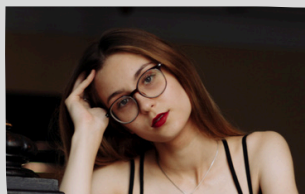
J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude and Fugue" N14 f# minor,
BWV 883
F.Chopin: Etude in c# minor Op. 10 N4
L.V.Beethoven: Sonata N17 d minor, Op. 31 - 1st mov

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata N17 d minor, Op. 31 - 3rd mov
F.Liszt: Three Concert Etudes S144 N3 Db Major
"Un Sospiro"
J.Brahms: Rhapsody in b minor Op. 79 N1

CATEGORY E

(age 20 to 22)



Yana Kalenchuk
(Age 20, Ukraine)

Winner of the IX Danubia Talents International Music Competition (2024) and the VIII International Festival «Dynasty» (Kyiv 2024).

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude and Fugue" N1 C Major,
BWV 870
F.Liszt: Concert Etude S.144 N2 "La Leggerezza"
L.V.Beethoven: Sonata N26 Eb Major, Op. 81a,
"Les Adieux" - 1st mov
B.Lyatoshynskyi: Prelude Op.44 N2

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata N26 Eb Major, Op. 81a,
"Les Adieux"
M.Skoryk: Toccata



Steven Kleeven
(Age 20, Belgium)

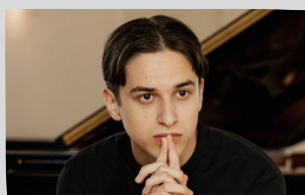
Winner of Cantabile Piano Competition for Youth (Belgium), International Music Comp. – Music & Stars Awards – Grand Prix Crown of Stars and Steinway 8th Piano Competition for Youth (Belgium).

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude and Fugue" N3 C# Major,
BWV 872
F.Chopin: Etude Op. 25 N12 in c minor
J.Haydn: Sonata N59 in Eb Major, Hob.XVI:49,
-1st mov Allegro
R.Schumann: Abegg Variations Op. 1 in F Major

Final Round Program:

J.Haydn: Sonata N59 in Eb Major, Hob.XVI:49,
-1st mov Allegro
A.Schönberg: Six little piano pieces, Op. 19
F. Chopin: Ballade N4 in f minor, Op. 52



Ihor Panchenko
(Age 20, Ukraine)

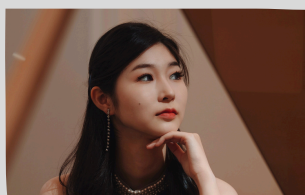
Winner of the 4th Open Mikhail Oberman's Competition for Young Pianists (Dnipro, 2023) and Bundeswettbewerb für das instrumentale und vokale Musizieren der Jugend unter der Schirmherrschaft des Bundespräsidenten (Zwickau, 2023).

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude and Fugue" N16 g minor,
BWV 885
F.Liszt: Transcendental Étude N10 f minor, S. 139
M.Clementi: Sonata in f# minor, Op. 25 N5
V.Ptushkin: Ostinato

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata N8 c minor, Op. 13, "Pathétique"
-1st mov
R.Schumann/F.Liszt: Widmung, S.566
C.Debussy: L'Isle Joyeuse, L. 106



Kyoka Sasaya
(Age 22, Japan)

Winner of the Orbetello Online Competition (2023), the Prof. Dichler Competition (2023) and the Chopin International Piano Competition (2018, Japan).

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude and Fugue" N18 g# minor,
BWV 887
C.Debussy: 12 Etudes, L.136: 7, Pour les Degrés
chromatiques
L.V.Beethoven: Sonata Op. 111 - 1st mov
M.Tokuyama: Musica Nara

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata Op. 111 - 1st mov
M.Ravel: Jeux d'eau
M.Tokuyama: Musica Nara



Salome Tsankashvili
(Age 20, Belgium)

Laureate-finalist of Steinway Piano Competition, Cantabile Piano Competition, EPTA

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude and Fugue" N6 d minor,
BWV 875
F.Chopin: Étude Op. 25 N12 c minor
L.V.Beethoven: Sonata N17 d minor, Op. 31 N2,
"Tempest" - 1st mov
F.Chopin: Scherzo N3 c# minor, Op. 39

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata N17 d minor, Op. 31 N2,
"Tempest" - 2nd & 3rd mov
J.S.Bach: Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue in d minor,
BWV 903



Raffaella Witzemann
(Age 22, Austria)

Winner of the International Piano Competition "Città di Minerbio".

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude and Fugue" N18 g# minor,
BWV 887
F.Chopin: Étude Op. 10 N5 Gb Major
W.A.Mozart: Sonata N13 Bb Major, K. 333:
- 1st mov Allegro
C. Debussy: Préludes Book 1, L.117: XII. Minstrels

Final Round Program:

W.A.Mozart: Nine Variations on "Lison dort" in
C Major, K.264
M.Ravel: Jeux d'eau, M.30



Andrii Yarema
(Age 21, Ukraine)

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude and Fugue" N21 Bb Major,
BWV 866
F.Liszt: Grande etude after Paganini N6
W.A.Mozart: Sonata K.576 - 1st mov
F.Liszt: Tarantella

Final Round Program:

W.A.Mozart: Sonata K.576 - 1st mov
F.Chopin: Etude Op. 10 N2
F.Liszt: Spanish Rhapsody

CATEGORY F

(age 23 to 25)



Fumika Matsumura
(Age 23, Japan)

Winner of the London Classical Music Competition, the International Mozart Competition Vienna and the International Chopin Piano Competition in ASIA.

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude and Fugue" N13 F# Major,
BWV 858

F.Chopin: Etude Op. 25 N11 a minor

W.A.Mozart: Sonata K. 333 - 1st mov

B.Bartók: Out of Doors Sz.81 -N1, 4, 5

Final Round Program:

W.A.Mozart: Sonata K. 333 - 1st mov

B.Bartók: 15 Hungarian Peasant Songs Sz.71
- Four old tunes

B.Bartók: Out of Doors Sz.81



Akito Nagai
(Age 24, Japan)

Winner of the Chopin international competition in ASIA and the Osaka international competition.

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude and Fugue" N13 F# Major,
BWV 858

F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N1 C Major

W.A.Mozart: Sonata N10 C Major, K330

- 1st mov Allegro moderato

R.Schumann: Fantasie in C Major Op.17 - 1st mov

Final Round Program:

W.A.Mozart: Sonata N10 C Major, K330
- 1st mov Allegro moderato

F.Chopin: Ballade N3 in Ab Major, Op.47

R.Schumann: Fantasie in C Major Op.17 - 1st mov



Lilianna Oliinyk
(Age 25, Ukraine)

Winner of the International music festival "Golden rose" (Ukraine, 2016), International music competition D. Zadora in Uzhorod (Ukraine, 2017) and International music competition V. Novaka (Czech republic, 2022).

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude and Fugue" N24 b minor,
BWV 893

F.Liszt: Transcendental Etude N10 in f minor

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata Op. 111 N32 c minor - 1st mov

A.Ginastera: Argentinian Dance Op.2 N2

Danza de la moza donosa

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata Op. 111 N32 c minor - 1st mov

A.Ginastera: Sonata Op.22 N1



Nikolas Pappas
(Age 24, Greece)

Winner of the UNESCO Music Competition (2020, 2021), the Thessaloniki Piano Festival Competition (2023) and the International Piano Competition „Wiener Klassik“ (2024).

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude and Fugue" N4 c# minor,
BWV 849

F.Liszt: La Campanella

L.V.Beethoven: "Hammerklavier" Sonata Op.106

- 1st mov

S.Michaelides: Sappho's Lyre

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: "Hammerklavier" Sonata Op. 106
- 4th mov Introduction and Fugue

K.Szymanowski: Etude N1, Op. 4

C.Debussy: Preludes Book 1 N10 & N12



Pierre Risopoulos
(Age 25, Belgium)

Winner of the Concours International d'improvisation d'Anvers "René Arons" (2024), Gabriel Fauré Music World Competition (2024) and the International Competition "Music Academy Forte" (2024).

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC II "Prelude and Fugue" N14 f# minor,
BWV 883

F.Chopin: Etude Op.10 N10

J.Haydn: Sonata in b minor, Hob; XVI 32 - 1st mov.

P.Boesmans: "Tunes" - N1, 6

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata N22 - Op. 54

R.Schumann: Novelette Op.21 N8



Matthew Tao
(Age 23, United States)

Winner of the Carnegie Mellon University Wind Ensemble Concerto Competition, Carnegie Mellon University Harry Archer Award, and the Pittsburgh Concert Society Young Artist Award.

First Round Program:

J.S.Bach: WTC I "Prelude and Fugue" N17 Ab Major,
BWV 862

F.Chopin: Etude Op.25 N10 b minor

J.Haydn: Sonata in D Major, Hob. XVI: 37

C.Debussy: Estampes L. 100: III. Jardins sous la pluie

Final Round Program:

L.V.Beethoven: Sonata Op. 111 N32 c minor - 1st mov

F.Chopin: Andante Spianato et Grande Polonaise

Brillante in Eb Major, Op. 22

International Competition for Young Pianists "Merci, Maestro!" 2025

 **Merci,
Maestro!**

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Founder & Artistic director: Nataliya Chepureenko

Program Coordinator, Responsible of Communication:

HueyChing Chong, Juliette Simonet, Olga Aksionchyk, Baptiste Renglet

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 in the Kingdom of Belgium

Mme Kateryna Bilotil, First Secretary

SPECIAL THANKS GO TO

Mr Philippe Close, Mayor of the City of Brussels

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

Mme Solange Bertrand, Director of the Hoofdstedelijke Kunstacademie

HOST FAMILIES

Godefroy Camauer, Annemie Cordemans, Neil Thomson, Marta Guzy,

Dilber Ahmed, Martine Diss, Cecile Foucard.

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

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- Grants for participation in the International Festival Masterclasses & Concerts "MUSIC ACADEMY FORTE" 2025 or 2026
- Participation at the concert of MUSICORUM festival (Brussels, Belgium) 2025/2026
- Invitation to participate in the 20th International Piano Forum "Bieszczady Without Borders" in Sanok (Poland) from February 1-7, 2026 (Exemption from the entry fee of approximately 150 euro)
- Concert in ITALY organised by ASSOCIAZIONE DI ALTA CULTURA MUSICALE (travel and accomodation are included in the prize)
- Participation at the concert with CAMERATA BRIMA in Brussels, Belgium 2025/2026
- SOLO CONCERT at the "SALON BRIMA", Brussels during 2025/2026
- Prize for the youngest promising participants in each category
- The best performance of a virtuoso piece
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- Cash prizes, Medals, Gifts and Diplomas