

The 8th International Competition  
for Young Pianists

 **Merci,  
Maestro!**

 Member of the  
*Alink-Argerich  
Foundation*

10->14.04.2024

Brussels  
Belgium



# Merci, Maestro!

# GALA CONCERT

of the Winners

## 14th April 2024 (SUN)

## 18h00

### Brussels Town Hall, Gothic Room, Grand Place

Classical music (Solo and Chamber) | Reception after the concert

+32 496 48 87 80 | [info@mercimaestro.be](mailto:info@mercimaestro.be) | [www.mercimaestro.be](http://www.mercimaestro.be)





**Dear audience and participants,**

Welcome to the 8th edition of the **International Competition for Young Pianists "Merci, Maestro!" 2024!** This year we have selected 54 participants from 67 candidates from 24 countries.

For eight consecutive years, the International Competition "Merci, Maestro!" has offered young pianists a valuable opportunity to perform in front of a jury consisting of world-renowned musicians. Participants will also receive feedback from the jury members that could further inspire them on their path to becoming professional musicians.

This event provides an international platform for intercultural exchange and gives musicians the chance to become known in Europe and beyond. Moreover, the selected winners will have the opportunity to perform at the Gala Concert in the beautiful historic building of Belgium, the Brussels Town Hall. In addition, the finalists from category D will have the chance to perform in the setting of a piano trio, together with experienced musicians from the members of Camerata BRIMA.

Even though the Gala Concert is the highlight of the competition during the competition period, it is not the end! With the support of various music institutions, festival organisers, orchestras and many more, the winners of the special awards get a unique opportunity to be involved in musical activities in many countries in Europe after the competition period. This proves to be a priceless opportunity for young musicians to develop their careers.

We sincerely thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at our next edition of the competition in April 2025!

We hope you enjoy the music!

Best Regards,

**Nataliya Chepurenko**  
**Artistic Director**  
**International Competition "Merci, Maestro!" 2024**

# JURY MEMBERS



## **Nataliya Chepurenko (Belgium/Ukraine)**

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

- International Piano competition “Merci, Maestro!”

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

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

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

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## **Jean-Claude Vanden Eynden (Belgium)**

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

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## **Diane Andersen (Belgium)**

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

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

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## **Johan Schmidt (Belgium)**

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

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## **Olga Zdorenko (Italy/Ukraine)**

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

# JURY MEMBERS



## **Tatiana Kozlova (Israel)**

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

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## **Yannick Van de Velde (Belgium)**

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

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## **Yurii Kot (Ukraine)**

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

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## **Milana Chernyavska (Germany)**

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

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## **Tamara Kordzadze (Switzerland)**

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

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## **Herman De Vleeschhouwer (Belgium)**

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

# Category A

(age 10 and below)



**Ignacy Augustyniak**  
(Poland)



**Bilan Zlatyslava**  
(Ukraine)



**Hayk Danoyan**  
(Armenia)



**Joséphine Germain**  
(France)



**Toni Gu**  
(Germany)



**Sara-Beatrice Luca**  
(Romania)



**Salomėja Scerinaité**  
(Lithuania)

# Category B

(age 11 to 14)



**Helena Belgardt**  
(Germany)



**Denys Burdeinyi**  
(Ukraine)



**Martin Droppa**  
(Czech Republic)



**Gabriel Fortunato**  
(France)



**Christina Gounara**  
(Greece)



**Andrew Guo**  
(Hong Kong)



**Celina Höferlin**  
(Germany)



**Michael Jiang**  
(Hong Kong)



**Saule Jusionis**  
(United Kingdom)



**Christian Kessler**  
(Germany)



**Eliza Kozlova**  
(Latvia)



**Tamar Kvitsiani**  
(Georgia)



**Alexander Lisitzky**  
(Belgium)



**Daniil Pidlisnyi**  
(Ukraine)



**Boris Trifonov**  
(Bulgaria)



**Zihan (Daniel) Wang**  
(United Kingdom)



**Christian Gilissen**  
(Netherlands)

# Category C

(age 15 to 20)



**Andrejs Avramecs**  
(Latvia)



**Zitong Li**  
(China)



**Diana Stohnushenko**  
(Ukraine)



**Boris Bikov**  
(Bulgaria)



**Mykhailo Lukaniuk**  
(Ukraine)



**Kuan-Hung Tung**  
(Taiwan)



**Monika D'Ermo**  
(Italy)



**Yaroslav Maksymets**  
(Ukraine)



**Viktoriia Vitiuk**  
(Ukraine)



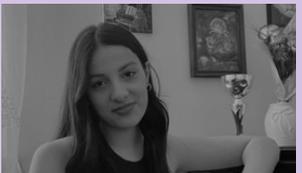
**Harun Ergen**  
(Switzerland)



**Kaeun Park**  
(South Korea)



**Fong Teng Wong**  
(Macau)



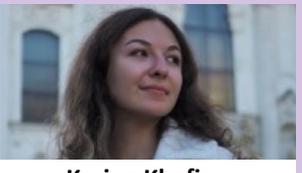
**Singh Hemansi-Maria**  
(Romania)



**Dominika Rak**  
(Poland)



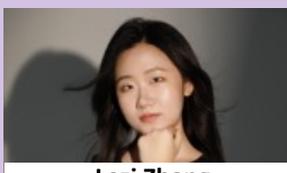
**Kai Chit Jack Wong**  
(Hong Kong)



**Karina Khafian**  
(Ukraine)



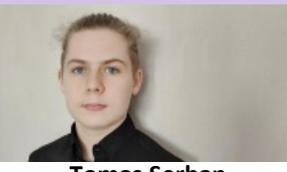
**Solomiia Salamaniuk**  
(Ukraine)



**Lezi Zhang**  
(China)



**Jef Kolacny**  
(Belgium)



**Tomas Serban**  
(Romania)



**Dmytro Kushch**  
(Ukraine)



**Serhii Shekhovtsov**  
(Ukraine)

# Category D

(age 21 to 25)



**Perceval Alizadeh Fard**  
(France)



**Oleksii Buymister**  
(Ukraine)



**Babette Craens**  
(Belgium)



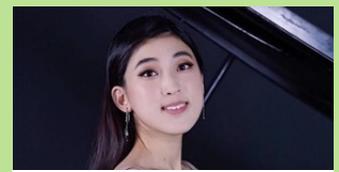
**Himawari Kita**  
(Japan)



**Teruma Kyotani**  
(Japan)



**Dahyeon Lee**  
(South Korea)



**Catherine Ma**  
(Canada)



**Denys Zarubaiko**  
(Ukraine)

# Session Musicians for Trios

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

Find info about them could be found on [WWW.CAMERATABRIMA.BE](http://WWW.CAMERATABRIMA.BE)

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



**Alexandra Novoseltsev**  
(Violin)



**Kateryna Lastochkina**  
(Violin)



**Valentin Feiss**  
(Cello)



**Shuya Tanaka**  
(Cello)

## Special Prizes

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

# GALA CONCERT

of the winners 2024

14.04.2024 | 18:00 | Gothic Room, Brussels Town Hall (Grand-Place)

with reception after the concert

## PROGRAMME

CATEGORY B: 2nd Prize

**Daniil Pidlisnyi**

*Ukraine, 12 years old*

F.Mendelssohn: Rondo Capriccioso Op.14 E Major

CATEGORY C: 2nd Prize

**Mykhailo Lukaniuk**

*Ukraine, 16 years old*

B.Lyatoshynsky: Five Preludes Op.44 N3- Allegro agitato

B.Lyatoshynsky: Five Preludes Op.44 N4- Andante sostenuto

CATEGORY A: 1st Prize

**Zlatyslava Bilan**

*Ukraine, 10 years old*

I.Berkovich: Toccata

CATEGORY B: 1st Prize

**Celina Höferlin**

*Germany, 14 years old*

F.Chopin: Variations Brillantes, Op.12

CATEGORY C: 1st Prize

**Lezi Zhang**

*China, 18 years old*

M.Ravel: Gaspard de la nuit, I. Ondine

CATEGORY D: 3rd Prize

**Dahyeon Lee**

*South Korea, 23 years old*

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

with Alexandra Novoseltsev (Violin)\* & Valentin Feiss (Cello)\*

CATEGORY D: 1st Prize

**Denys Zarubaiko**

*Ukraine, 23 years old*

L.v.Beethoven: Piano Trio N3 c minor, Op.1 N3, 4th mvt

with Kateryna Lastochkina (Violin)\* & Shuya Tanaka (Cello)\*

*\*Session Musicians for Piano Trio are members of CAMERATA BRIMA*

## 1-2-3 PRIZES

### CATEGORY A

**1st Prize:** Zlatslava Bilan (Ukraine, 10 y/o)

**2nd Prize:** Hayk Danoyan (Armenia, 9 y/o), Joséphine Germain (France, 8 y/o), Salomėja Scerinaite (Lithuania, 10 y/o)

**3rd Prize:** Toni Gu (Germany, 9 y/o), Sara-Beatrice Luca (Romania, 10 y/o)

### CATEGORY B

**1st Prize:** Celina Höferlin (Germany, 14 y/o)

**2nd Prize:** Helena Belgardt (Germany, 13 y/o), Michael Jiang (Hong Kong, 14 y/o), Daniil Pidlisnyi (Ukraine, 12 y/o)

**3rd Prize:** Boris Trifonov (Bulgaria, 14 y/o)

### CATEGORY C

**1st Prize:** Lezi Zhang (China, 18 y/o) | **2nd Prize:** Mykhailo Lukaniuk (Ukraine, 16 y/o)

**3rd Prize:** Zitong Li (China, 17 y/o), Solomiia Salamaniuk (Ukraine, 20 y/o)

### CATEGORY D

**1st Prize:** Denys Zarubaiko (Ukraine, 23 y/o)

**2nd Prize:** Catherine Ma (Canada, 25 y/o) | **3rd Prize:** Dahyeon Lee (South Korea, 23 y/o)

## SPECIAL PRIZES RECIPIENTS:

- Invitation by The Academic Symphony Orchestra of the Lviv National Philharmonic named after Myroslav Skoryk and the Lviv Krushelnytska State Music Lyceum to perform in one concert as a soloist with the Symphony Orchestra of Lviv (Ukraine) 2024/2025: **Jef Kolacny (Belgium, 20 y/o)**
- Grants for participation in the International Festival Masterclasses & Concerts "MUSIC ACADEMY FORTE" 2024/2025 (300 euro): **Himawari Kita (Japan, 23 y/o), Jef Kolacny, Mykhailo Lukaniuk**
- Participation at MUSICORUM festival's concert (Brussels) 2024/2025: **Celina Höferlin, Daniil Pidlisnyi, Mykhailo Lukaniuk**
- Invitation to participate in the 20th International Piano Forum "Bieszczady Without Borders" in Sanok (Poland) from February 1-7, 2025 (Exemption from the entry fee of approximately 150 euro): **Celina Höferlin, Andrejs Avramecs (Latvia, 16 y/o)**
- Concert in ITALY organised by ASSOCIAZIONE DI ALTA CULTURA MUSICALE: **Lezi Zhang**
- Participation at the concert with CAMERATA BRIMA in Brussels, Belgium 2024/2025: **Jef Kolacny**
- SOLO CONCERT at the "SALON BRIMA", Brussels during 2024/2025: **Jef Kolacny**
- Grant for participation in the International Competition "MUSIC ACADEMY FORTE" 2024 (-50%) to all 1st prize winners: **Denys Zarubaiko, Zlatslava Bilan, Celina Höferlin, Lezi Zhang**
- Prize for the youngest promising participants in Category A: **Joséphine Germain**
- Prize for the youngest promising participants in Category C: **Andrejs Avramecs**
- The best performance of a virtuoso piece: **Mykhailo Lukaniuk**
- Special edition of music scores of Ukrainian composers: **Denys Zarubaiko, Dahyeon Lee, Himawari Kita**

## PARTNERS:



## SPECIAL THANKS GO TO

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

**Mme Kateryna Bilotil**, First Secretary

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

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

**Mme Solange Bertrand**, Director of the HOOFDSTEDELIJKE KUNSTACADEMIE

## Next competition "Merci, Maestro!" - April 2025

Did you enjoy today's concert? Do you share our vision and want to help talented young musicians in their careers? We're always on the lookout for sponsors to support our upcoming international competitions and festivals! Don't hesitate to contact us if you'd like to join us in our efforts to nurture young talents!

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

 **Merci,  
Maestro!**

## MANAGEMENT TEAM

Founder & Artistic director: Nataliya Chepurenko

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

## GALA CONCERT

**organised with the support of the City of Brussels;**

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

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

Mme Kateryna Bilotil, First Secretary

## SPECIALS THANKS GO TO

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

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

Mme Solange Bertrand, Director of the HOOFDSTEDELIJKE KUNSTACADEMIE

## HOST FAMILIES

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

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

## PARTNERS



## Next competition "Merci, Maestro!" – April 2025

Did you enjoy today's concert? Do you share our vision and want to help talented young musicians in their careers? We're always on the lookout for sponsors to support our upcoming international competitions and festivals! Don't hesitate to contact us if you'd like to join us in our efforts to nurture young talents!

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