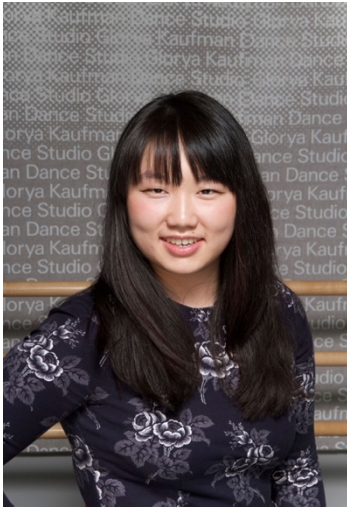




SYLVIA JIANG

piano



Launching head-first at four years old into an exploration of the piano, New Zealand-born Sylvia Jiang can now be found performing as a soloist with the Royal Philharmonic and chasing a piano in choreographer Pam Tanowitz's newest creation across the Kennedy Center stage with equal enthusiasm. Inspired by a hotel-lobby pianist, toddler Sylvia turned to her mother and asked to play the instrument. Though at first skeptical that such a rambunctious child could engage with Piano lessons, her parents were eventually won over by the child's unrelenting powers of persuasion. Never could they have imagined that this initial interest was only the tip of the iceberg.

Sylvia decided to pursue her music career more seriously after she was invited to give her first recital as a featured soloist in "Emerging Artists at Baycourt Theatre" - a major New Zealand concert series - in 2012. She has been hailed by critics as a "gifted, young pianist of genuine substance" (Pianist John Lill, 2013) and "New Zealand's most notable young emerging pianist" (*Baycourt Times*, 2012), and her performances have been featured on national networks TV3, ABC Australia, Radio New Zealand Concert, Maori Television, and the BBC.

These early successes led to an acceptance at the Juilliard School, where she became the first New Zealand pianist in Juilliard's 109-year history to attend at the undergraduate level.

Bursting onto the Australasian music competition scene at age 16, Sylvia became one of the youngest laureates of the New Zealand Wallace National Piano Competition, known as the definitive competition for New Zealand pianists. Similarly at the Lev Vlassenko International Piano Competition, Sylvia was once again one of the youngest laureates, garnering a performance of the Schumann Piano Concerto with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra under the Baton of Nicholas Braithwaite. Further competition successes have seen her awarded top prizes at the Kerikeri, Music Academy of the West, and Hastings International piano competitions.

Sylvia has gone on to give solo performances in Great Britain, Sydney, Indonesia, Korea, New Zealand, and the United States. As an orchestral soloist, she has performed Rachmaninoff's Concerto No. 2 in C Minor with the Royal Philharmonic under the baton of Rory McDonald, a self-conducted performance of Mozart's Concerto in E flat Major K. 271, and a performance of Franck's Symphonic Variations with the Music Academy of the West Festival Orchestra under the baton of Larry Rachliffe. Most notably, Sylvia fulfilled a childhood dream of appearing with her hometown orchestra the Auckland Philharmonic in 2022 by being invited to be a last-minute replacement for Jean Efflam Bavouzet, performing Liszt's Second Piano Concerto to a standing ovation. Other notable performance highlights include solo performances at Alice Tully Hall, the Kennedy Center, Banff Center in Alberta, Canada, Morgan Library in New York City, Juilliard's Morse and Paul Halls, The Lodge at the Hills, and the Sydney and New York Steinway Halls.

As a collaborator, Sylvia takes a particular interest in finding new ways to tell stories through the lens of multi-disciplinary work. In her freshman year at Juilliard, she founded *NOVA: Movement and Sound*, a thirty-person ensemble which created concert-length collaborative works combining music and dance. She is the Director and Co-founder of "I forgot the milk", an ensemble combining acting, music, dance, and multimedia through new music and improvisation. Sylvia has been invited to be a featured soloist in The Kennedy Center's Ballet Across America with Dance Theatre of Harlem and Miami City Ballet where she will be working with choreographer Pam Tanowitz on a new commission combining both dance companies. She is the Artistic Director and Co-Founder of non-profit organization Muffin Music, and currently serves as the sole instrumental recipient in her cohort of the Artist Diploma award from the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, where she studies with Richard Goode and Yong Hi Moon. Sylvia Jiang is a winner of the 2023 Astral National Competition.

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