

Ivetta Irkha (Sweden)



Ivetta Irkha is well established in the Swedish music life since many years as one of the foremost pianists. Her great love of music began when she, as a two-year-old, was conducting behind her father when he rehearsed as a professor at the Kharkov Music Conservatory in Ukraine. Piano studies began at an early age, and Ivetta Irkha made her debut already at the age of 10 as a soloist with an orchestra in Haydn's Piano Concerto in D major. Subsequently she made advanced studies in piano at music schools for particularly talented children, participation in competitions and concerts, diploma studies in both Ukraine and Sweden, and participation in a number of international master classes. She graduated with the highest grades at the Kharkov Institute of Arts and the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm.

Ivetta has established herself as a profound interpreter of the baroque, classic, and romantic piano repertoire. Her musical interpretation was acclaimed by the music critics in Svenska Dagbladet, one of Sweden's leading newspapers: "She combines a strong force of expression and heartfelt poetry with musical intelligence." She has played at festivals and toured as a soloist in Europe, the United States of America and China. Since 1997 Ivetta Irkha is a sought after music and piano educator; since 2004 Ivetta Irkha is a jury member of the international Steinway Junior Piano Competition; since 2010 Ivetta Irkha is the artistic director of the Chamber Music Series at Hedvig Eleonora Church; in 2015 the founder of Stockholm Piano Festival.

Jeremy Wing Kwan Wong (Singapore/Finland)



Jeremy Wing Kwan Wong is an accomplished Singaporean pianist and the president of World Piano Teachers Association (WPTA) Finland. He holds teaching positions in International School of Music Finland, where he is also an ABRSM coordinator, and Helsinki Adult Institute as a piano and theory teacher. He is also working as the pianist and music coordinator for Andreaskyrkan, Finland. Since 2017, Jeremy has been engaged as the research assistant for Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) Singapore.

As an established Classical musician, Jeremy was the best graduate from Nanyang Academy of Fine arts (NAFA), after which he completed his Bachelor of Music (First class honors) at the Royal College of Music (London) under the full scholarship by National Arts Council Singapore and Masters of Music at Sibelius Academy.

Besides Classical music, Jeremy is constantly active in other areas of performing arts such as musical theatre productions, improvised accompaniment, composition and research work. He was the prize winner in many competitions including the 7th International Piano Competition in Milan, and 26th International Music Competition 'Vittoria Caffa Righetti Award' where he received Second Prize for his composition work titled '*Miniatures for Duo Accordions*'.

Jeremy has participated and given masterclasses, workshops, jury works and his extensive performance experiences led him to perform in Finland, China, New York (Carnegie Hall), London, Vietnam (Ho Chi Min conservatory), Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore as both soloist and chamber musician.

As a strong advocate for piano and theory pedagogy, Jeremy has also written numerous exercises and pedagogic materials on piano improvisation. These include, a three-volume book on *Applied Improvisation* (2014) and Adult Improvisation Course for Adult learners (2018) that contains pedagogue materials for theory-led improvisations. Apart from this, he has written two academic research dissertations; on an analytical – led performance aspect of selected Schubert's piano sonatas and the study of formal functions in the *Seasons op. 37* by Tchaikovsky.

Kseniia Vokhmianina (Ukraine/Singapore)



Kseniia Vokhmianina performs internationally as a piano recitalist, concerto soloist, and chamber musician.

She won international piano competitions held in France, Australia, Indonesia, Poland, Italy, Serbia, Malaysia and Singapore, including the 1st Prize and Special Prize for “The Best Performer from Eastern Europe” at the International Competition “Citta di Barletta” in Italy; the 1st Prize at the IX International Piano Competition in Serbia; the 3rd prize at Singapore National Piano and Violin Competition; Silver prize at 4th ASEAN Chopin Piano

Competition (Malaysia); the 2nd Prize in "Russian Piano" category at Sydney Eisteddfod (Australia). Ms Vokhmianina's most recent achievements include the 1st Prize (Artist category) at Medan International Piano Competition (Indonesia) and two awards (including "Prix du Barreau du Val D'oise") at the Piano Campus International Piano Competition (France).

A recipient of the Lee Foundation Scholarship, she studied at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (Singapore), and consequently continued with the degree course offered in collaboration with the Royal College of Music (UK). Upon successful graduation, Ms Vokhmianina was awarded the “Best Graduate (Degree)” and the “Embassy of Peru” awards. She also completed her Masters in Music with distinction at the Kharkiv National Pedagogical University in Ukraine and has been a student of the distinguished pianist and pedagogue, Professor Boris Kraljevic for many years. Ms Vokhmianina also obtained the Certificate of Advanced Studies in Classical Music Performance at the Zurich University of the Arts (Switzerland) in class of Prof. Konstantin Scherbakov.

Ms Vokhmianina has been a guest artist in various international music festivals, including “Convivium Musicum” (Serbia), “International Piano Festival” (Vietnam), “Days of Music” (Montenegro), “George Town Festival” (Malaysia), “International Holland Music Sessions” (Netherlands), and “65th

Pablo Casals Festival” (France). She appeared as a concerto soloist with Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Symphony Orchestra, Festival Symphony Orchestra (Singapore), Kharkiv Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (Ukraine), Belgorod Chamber Orchestra (Russia), Kaunas Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (Lithuania), and Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra (Singapore).

Besides her international performing career, Ms Vokhmianina is a fulltime Music Faculty member of the School of The Arts (SOTA) in Singapore. In both 2018 and 2019 Ms Vokhmianina was invited as a judge for the “Golden Lion Awards” International Piano Competition (Singapore) as well as WPTA Finland International Piano Competition 2019. Ms Vokhmianina is the President of the World Piano Teachers Association (Singapore affiliate) since 2018.

During previous season, Kseniia Vokhmianina has been curating the programme and performing for the new chamber music series “By Candlelight” in collaboration with the Arts House Singapore. She performed solo and chamber music recitals in Switzerland, Germany, Sweden as well as concerto appearances with Sichuan Symphony Orchestra (China) and Murmansk Philharmonic Orchestra (Russia).

Massimiliano Valenti (Italy)



Massimiliano Valenti began his studies at age of 4 and then continued his musical studies at the Musical Institute "V. Bellini" in Catania with Professor Ms Mariapia Tricoli, graduating with top honors. Subsequently furthered his potential in Germany with the masters Paul Buch in Stuttgart, and later on in Monaco with the scholar Gerhard Oppitz. In 2000 he met Maestro Aldo Ciccolini in Paris with whom he begins an in-depth analysis of the French

repertoire and finally in Romania with Diana Apan. Other Masters who have also contributed to his development are Oxana Yablonskaja, Marian Mika, Luigi Mostacci, Massimiliano Damerini and Dana Borsan.

At a very young age Valenti won numerous national and international competitions in all parts of Italy. Thus he began a brilliant concert activity, which led him to perform in Festivals in main Italian cities. In 2004 debut in Brasov (Romania) he was described by the critics: "A talent out of the ordinary, who places himself on the path of the great pianism". Soon he is invited to perform at the Banatul Philharmonic of Timisoara and Sibiu, European Capital of Culture at that time, at the International Festival " Carl Filtsch " in the State Philharmonic. Progressively he obtains appreciation from the international scene, performing at Festivals in prestigious European and overseas halls including: Berlin, Vienna, London, Edinburgh, Barcelona, Porto, Leon, Detroit, Baltimore, Toronto, Montreal and Seoul.

Since 2016 he has been a regular guest of the most important theaters of China, while 2019 opens the door to Japan. He is regularly invited to give courses of Advanced Piano in Italy and abroad including: the University of Aveiro Music Conservatory of Oporto (Portugal) , the University of Virginia Tech, Radford and Greenville (USA), the Department of Music in Timisoara (Romania) and the National University of Music in Seoul (Korea).

His repertoire span all works for keyboard, which comprehends the classical period, romantic and modern with a particular predilection for avant-garde music. Massimiliano Valenti does not follow the score but he dominates it through his reading of the music, which grasps the most hidden movements. His personality is expressed through sound refinement and endless colours that are not written on paper but are set alive in the music halls: "It is not enough to follow the score, but you must master it all to render adequately the enthusiasm and the recollections". He continuously manages to astonish and amaze his audience, who cannot but feel immediately overwhelmed by his stage presence. Presence only great artists are able to produce, the real ones, who transcend from superficial acrobatic techniques or artificial exhibitionists, aiming to the true and profound nature of the music.

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