

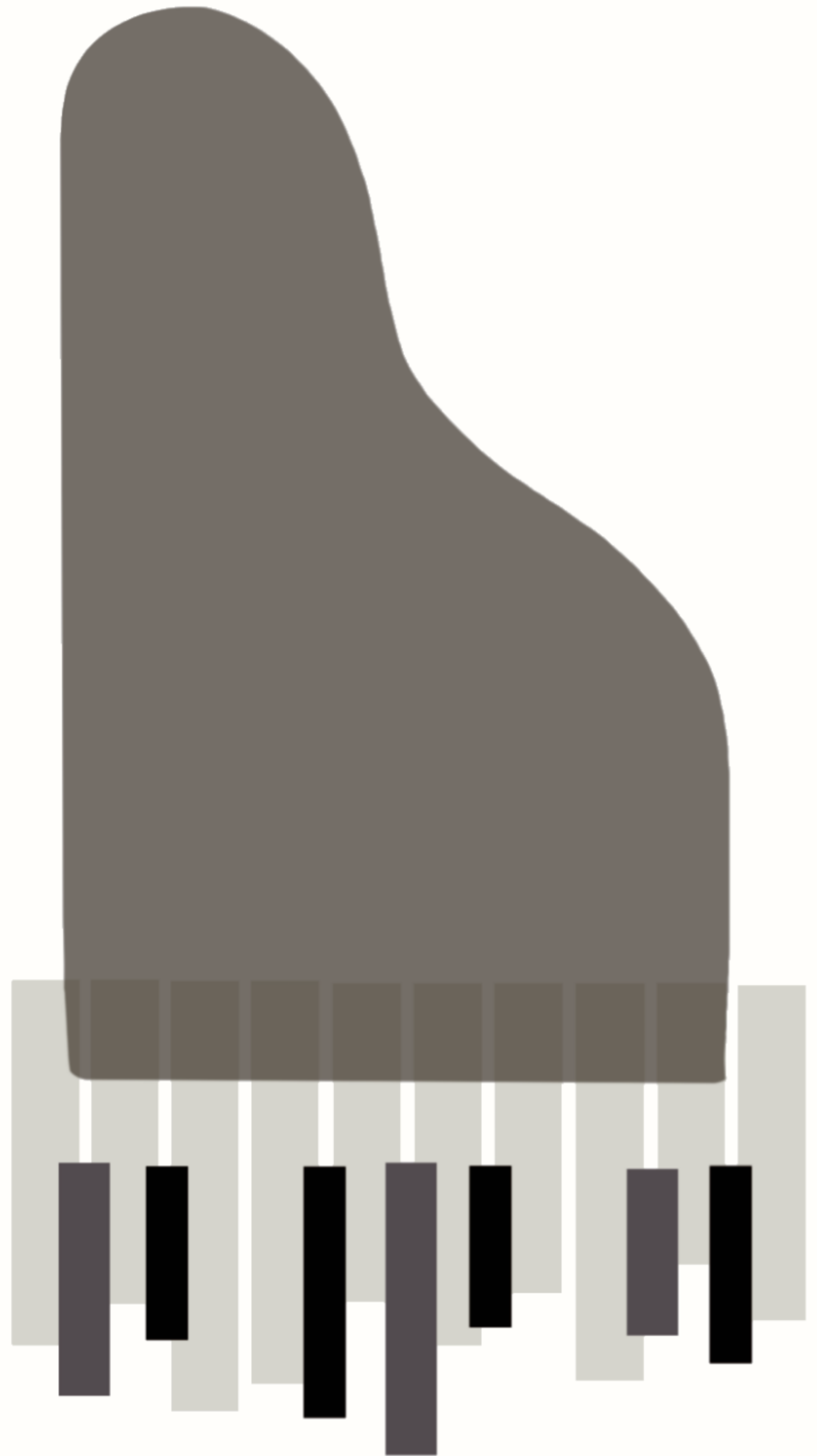
WORLD PIANO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION FINLAND PRESENTS

THE 5TH WPTA FINLAND



The Competition Jury 2023

Jeremy Wing Kwan Wong
Jacob Lidåkra
Cristina Marton-Argerich
Chen Qu
Anna Pavlova



Jeremy Wing Kwan Wong

Singapore / Finland



Jeremy Wing Kwan Wong is an accomplished Singaporean concert pianist, chamber musician, composer, and music theorist. Based in both Finland and Singapore, Jeremy is a full time faculty at *Sibelius Academy, University of the Arts Helsinki*, the president of *World Piano Teachers Association, Finland* and an associate faculty at *School of Music, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore*. His versatile performance and teaching experiences led to regular appearances in music festivals, competitions and performance masterclasses in Asia and Europe.

As a young concert artist, Jeremy received an accolade of academic and performance awards. Under the tutelage of Professor Boris Kraljevic, he finished his Diploma in Performance as the "Best Graduate" of *Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA)* in 2009. Subsequently, he received the prestigious arts scholarship from *National Arts Council Singapore* to continue his Bachelor studies at the *Royal College of Music London, UK* which he graduated with First class honors and the highest recital points. Thereafter, Jeremy completed his Masters of Music degree from *Sibelius Academy, University of the Arts Helsinki*.

A laureate at international competitions, his compositions, "Variations and Theme" and "Miniatures for Duo Accordions" were premiered in Helsinki Music Center and were lauded with the 'Vittoria Caffa Righetti Award' at the 26th International Music Competition in Italy. At the same time, he was a top prize winner in the artist category of the 7th International Piano Competition in Milan. Jeremy has since performed extensively in Helsinki, Finland where he is also recently been appointed as artistic director of a *Andreaskyrkan* and East meets West cultural concert series.

Alongside his international performing career, Jeremy is a reputable piano and theory pedagogue. The core of his teaching methods revolves around a constructivist approach to enacting musical meaning, inner hearing, and theory-led applied improvisations into one's performance. Having written and published numerous pedagogical works on teaching piano improvisation and performance analytical theses. His three-volume book titled *Fundamentals with Theory & Improvisation: An Applied Improvisation Method* was completed in year 2014 followed by *An Applied Improvisation for Adult* in year 2018. His two academic research papers, *Tonal organization of three Schubert Sonatas from a Schenkerian Perspective and Phrase structure and Formal Functions in the Opening Themes of Tchaikovsky's Seasons op. 37*, was published in 2013 and 2017 respectively.

Jeremy is currently pursuing his doctoral degree at the MuTri doctoral school at *Sibelius Academy, University of the Arts Helsinki*.

Jacob Lidåkra

Sweden



Swedish pianist, Jacob Lidåkra made his debut in Musikverein in Vienna in 2016, and has since been a highly demanded artist. He holds a master's degree from the Sibelius Academy, where he studied with renowned piano professor, Liisa Pohjola. He has also participated in master classes for Fabio Bidini, Stanislav Ioudenitch and Dmitri Bashkirov. He has performed with the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Norrköping Symphony Orchestra with Daniel Harding and Per Hammarström.

He has been the recurring artist at Lake Como International Piano Academy and the International Holland Music Sessions for several years, which led to many solo recitals in numerous venues all over The Netherlands.

Jacob Lidåkra won second prize and prize for best contemporary piece in the Stockholm International Music Competition, won second prize in the Ljunggren competition in 2016 and was the winner of the Yamaha Finland competition in 2017.

Besides being an active soloist, Jacob is also a well sought after accompanist. He has played on several Scandinavian tours with Nordic Song Festival, accompanied singers in the Mirjam Helin International Singing Competition in Helsinki and is also teaching at the Birgit Nilsson-masterclasses for professional singers. In 2013, Jacob Lidåkra co-founded the Aurora Piano Quintet, and some recent chamber music partnerships have included the Van der Pals-quartet and flutist Janne Thomsen.

Jacob Lidåkra is an experienced educator specialising in solo piano, lied-duo, chamber music and accompaniment and he has given frequent masterclasses at OrkesterEfterskolen, the only boarding school in Denmark specialized in classical music. He currently holds the position as the head of chamber music program, and is also the founder and artistic director of OrkesterEfterskolen's Chamber Music Festival.

Cristina Marton-Argerich

Germany



*"Cristina Marton is a magnificent pianist" –
Martha Argerich*

Born in Romania, Cristina Marton-Argerich is an international pianist, chamber musician and piano pedagogue. During the past seasons Cristina Marton-Argerich performed at renowned music centers worldwide such as the Berliner Philharmonie, Warsaw National Philharmonic Hall, Auditorio Nacional de Madrid, Opernhaus Zürich, Herkulesaal München, Taipei National Hall, Teatro Colón de Buenos Aires, Mozarteum Salzburg, Atheneum Bucharest, Hong Kong City Hall, BAM Theater New York, Playhouse Theater Edinburgh, Frankfurt Alte Oper.

She performs since many years in piano duo with Martha Argerich in South America, Asia and Europe. The piano duo Martha Argerich & Cristina Marton recorded live performances at the Progetto Martha Argerich in Lugano (2009 and 2011) for EMI Classics and Warner Classics (2013).

Cristina Marton has appeared as soloist with orchestras including Orchestre della Svizzera-Italiana, Stuttgarter Kammerorchester, Orchester der Oper Zürich, Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Argentina, Württembergisches Kammerorchester Heilbronn, Orquesta Sinfonica de Galicia, Mozarteum Orchester Salzburg, Polish Chamber Orchestra, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, Museumsorchester Frankfurt conducted by distinguished conductors such as Sandor Vegh, James Judd, Dennis Russel Davies, Jörg Faerber, Christoph Poppen, Alexandre Rabinovich.

Cristina Marton studied in Berlin with Prof. Georg Sava. She also received lessons from Christian Zacharias, Leon Fleischer, Martha Argerich, Dmitri Baskirov, Stephen Kovacevich, Fou Ts'ong, Andras Schiff, Radu Lupu and Alfred Brendel. She has won numerous important prizes at international competitions such as the Arthur Schnabel Competition in Berlin 1994, Geza Anda Competition in Zürich 1994, Clara Schumann Competition in Düsseldorf 1997, Mozart Competition in Salzburg 1999 and the First Martha Argerich International Piano Competition in Buenos Aires 1999, the First Prize in the Murray Dranoff Two Piano Competition in Miami, USA and the First Prize in the Chamber Music Competition in Caltanissetta 1999 with Aglaia Bätzner, her piano duo partner.

Very active as a pedagogue, Cristina Marton teaches at the Jugendmusikschule Singen and at the Leopold Mozart Center of the University of Augsburg. She is jury member at international competitions and gives masterclasses worldwide.

Cristina Marton-Argerich is a Steinway Artist.

Chen Qu



Finland

Chen QU is a virtuosic Finnish – Chinese classical pianist and the artistic director of *World Piano Teachers Association* (WPTA) Finland as well as *International Artists' Association of Finland*. She is also serving as the executive director of *International Performing Arts and Culture Organisation, Singapore*.

She graduated with Bachelor and Master of music degrees from *Sibelius Academy, University of the Arts Helsinki*, major in Classical piano performance and minor in piano pedagogy, chamber music and singing. She was in the piano class of renowned Finnish pianists Teppo Koivisto and Juhani Lagerspetz and has also completed 60 ECTS teacher's pedagogical studies in her master's degree program. Prior to that, she holds a Diploma in music Performance from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore under the tutelage of Dr. Nicholas Ong (*The Juilliard School*) before moving to Helsinki.

Chen started her piano training since 4 years old and by the tender age of 12, she has obtained the highest possible graded exam piano certification conferred by Shanghai conservatory, China conservatory and Chinese Musician Association. A multi international piano competition award winner, her achievements include second prize for the 3rd Irmeler International Competition, Dalian (2009), Third prize in senior section of 7th International Piano Competition in Milan, Italy and Silver prize from the Asia International Piano Competition in Korea in (2017), First prize award from The North International Music Competition Stockholm, Sweden (2019) and Third prize winner from International Grand Music Competition Moscow, Russia (2020). As a grant recipient of Sibelius Academy foundation and Arts Promotion Center Finland, Taiteen edistämiskeskus (Taie) grants, she actively participates in masterclasses and music festivals in Europe and Asia.

Chen is an avid piano pedagogue and performer. She is highly sought after for masterclasses and has also served as a jury member in various international piano competitions. Being a devoted and pedagogically driven teacher, Chen's students have succeeded in international competitions as well as international music examinations and entrance exams. Since 2015, Chen has been actively performing Classical and Chinese folk music across major venues in Helsinki.

Anna Pavlova

Austria



Anna Pavlova is a concert pianist and music educator living in Vienna, Austria. She received her early musical education at the Penza Music School and the Penza Music College in the class of G. A. Grossman. She pursued and completed her graduate degree at the Saratov State Conservatory L. V. Sobinov under Prof. L. I. Shugom. After a short stint as lecturer at the Saratov State Conservatory she moved to Austria to continue her piano performance studies with Prof. Oleg Marshev at the Anton Bruckner University where she graduated with distinction in 2016.

Anna also holds a Master of Arts degree in Pedagogy from the Anton Bruckner University in Linz, which she finished under Prof. Michael Korstick in 2019.

Recently Anna completed her post graduate studies at the Piano Academy Neue Sterne in Hanover, where she refined her piano playing craft with the renowned teacher and pianist Albert Mamriev. Anna also had the privilege of receiving masterclasses from notable musicians such as G. Borisov, A. Greene, Ch. Hinterhuber, M. Korstick, E. Kupie, S. Möller, W. Nabore, N. Petrow, S. Pochekin, N. Trull and M. Voskresensky.

Anna Pavlova regularly performs at music festivals and concert halls all over the world. As a soloist and member of chamber music ensembles Anna Pavlova has performed in concert halls in Armenia, Austria, Czech Republic, Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Russia, Ukraine and the United States, where she debuted with a recital at the Carnegie Hall (Weill Recital Hall) in New York in 2015. She also has been featured as soloist with various symphony orchestras headed by A. Ivanov (Russia), E. Serov (Russia), V. Ponkin (Russia), I. Kazhdan (Ukraine), O. Balan (Cantu, Italy), F. Krager (USA), I. Iliev (Bulgaria).

In addition to her performance career, Anna Pavlova is also a devoted pedagogue based in Vienna who also teaches regularly in Upper Austria, she also gives piano masterclasses for the Golden Key Music Festival in Vienna and is serving as jury member for international piano competitions.

As a virtuosic young pianist, Anna has had great success in piano competitions and has to date been a laureate in over 25 prestigious international piano competitions held around the world.