

Dr. Iryna Vokhmyanina
Ukraine/ Singapore



Iryna Vokhmyanina obtained her Masters Degree from Moscow State Pedagogical University with the specialisation Pedagogue of Music (piano). After completing postgraduate studies, she has got a PhD with the specialisation Theory and Methodology of Professional Music Education.

Since then, Iryna has combined both teaching and performance careers. She is a laureate of several international music competitions and often performs chamber music recitals.

Dr Vokhmyanina taught piano at several colleges and universities in Europe and Asia. For many years, Dr Vokhmyanina held the position as a Piano Professor of the Department of Music Performing Arts at Kharkiv National Pedagogical University (Ukraine).

Iryna's professional teaching experience is more than 25 years. Currently, Dr Vokhmyanina teaches piano, accompaniment class, and chamber music in Singapore. Her students became winners of several international music competitions in the UK, Ukraine, Austria, Thailand, Indonesia, USA, Sweden, Australia and Singapore; were successfully accepted to various music educational establishments all over the world. She was invited to conduct piano masterclasses in Music Summer Academy (Olbia, Italy), Kurozwęki Music Summer Academy (Poland), and Singapore Raffles International Music Festival among others.

Also, she is often a member of the jury at the international music competitions and festivals, including "Thailand Chopin Piano Competition" (Bangkok, Thailand), Singapore Steinway Youth Piano Competition (Singapore); project coordinator of lectures-concerts "Mozart's effect" at Kharkiv Philharmonic Society (Ukraine, 2009–2013); founder and Artistic Director of the "Symphony of Motherhood" in Singapore since 2012 as well as founding member and Artistic Director of the "Chamber Music Society of Singapore" since 2015 and Honorary President of the WPTA Singapore since 2017.

Prof. Laurens Patzlaff

Germany



After the release of his debut album, “Reflections on Debussy” in 2012, Laurens Patzlaff was dubbed “Master of the art of improvisation” by the Deutschlandfunk.

His second solo album, “The Sorcerer’s Apprentice”, was featured in Piano News 2015, describing: “Patzlaff renders himself a ‘magician’ and ‘master’, which, unlike an ‘apprentice,’ has mastered all tricks and knacks.”

From a young age, piano improvisation already began shaping the artistic creations of the pianist, who was born near Stuttgart/Germany in 1981. Alongside the classical piano repertoire, he still practised the almost forgotten art of stylistically bound improvisation as well as free, experimental improvisation and jazz. The piano – as an interdisciplinary instrument – is just as important to him as a broad, holistic view of music. Therefore, next to the educational musician, Robert Schumann, and the jazz pianist, Oscar Peterson, his role model has always been Leonard Bernstein, who rejected a distinction between serious and light music, pointing out that only the quality of the music was what mattered.

The musical versatility which really makes Laurens Patzlaff stand out was reflected in the various courses he studied at music universities of Stuttgart and Madrid, which he passed with distinction. Even as a teenager, Laurens Patzlaff was active as a chamber musician, forming his own piano trio and playing piano, keyboard and the drums in several bands. Today, the multi-award winning pianist is a regular guest at international music festivals in the USA, China, Australia and South Africa.

He has performed as a soloist in the Wiener Musikverein (Viennese Music Association) and in the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. He also regularly plays solo improvised piano recitals in many countries across Europe, Asia, and North & South America. He has worked with the South-west German Chamber Orchestra, the Stuttgart State Orchestra and the Neubrandenburg Philharmonic, to name just a few. This is topped off by masterclasses at over 30 music academies and universities worldwide. His speciality is piano improvisation. This has been the artistic and pedagogical focus of his work since 2008. He regularly taught this subject at the music universities of Stuttgart, Trossingen, Freiburg im Breisgau and Frankfurt/Main.

In 2013, he was appointed as Germany’s first professor for piano and improvisation playing at the Lübeck University of Music. The subject, ‘Piano and Improvisation’ attempts to revive the ideal of the universal pianist – which was still popular in the 19th century – by combining improvisation, playing compositions, as well as score-playing and accompaniment in one lesson.

Dr. Jin Hwa Lee
South Korea



Korean-born pianist, Jin Hwa Lee has attracted the public's attention, establishing herself as a pianist of huge vigor and perceptive insight, since receiving acclamation on her New York debut concerts and her solo CD 'Jin Hwa Lee plays Rachmaninov'.

She earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in 'Piano Performance' with a full scholarship at the University of Michigan, and previously studied at Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University and Seoul National University where she graduated with high honors.

Dr. Lee has been actively presented as a soloist at major venues in Korea including Seoul Arts Center and Kumho Art Hall Yonsei, also in the US including at Carnegie Weil Hall in New York City, Max M Fisher Music Center's Orchestra Hall and Steinway Piano Gallery in Detroit.

In addition, she has been invited to perform as a guest pianist at Eastman School of Music and Oberlin Conservatory and her performances have been frequently broadcast on FM radio in the US such as WRCJ, WJBC and WQXR. Her principal teachers have included Arthur Greene, Yong Hi Moon and HaeSun Paik.

Dr. Lee has served as a president of WPTA South Korea since 2018. She is currently an Adjunct Professor of Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Arts at the Sejong University and also teaches at Seoul Arts Center's Music Academy in Korea.

Ian Goh
Malaysia



Ian Goh, a native of Malaysia, has appeared in recitals as soloist and chamber musician in the United States, China, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia, and Malaysia. He made his piano concerto debut at Juanita K. Hammons Hall (USA) after winning the Missouri State University Concerto Competition in 2008, and premiered *Fantasy Variations for Piano and Orchestra* by Dr. Patrick Brown under the baton of Dr. Robert Quebbeman at the Original Composition Festival in the same year. He has also worked with other orchestras and ensembles, including Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre Orchestra, Sixteen Strings String Quartet, DSCH String Quartet, Debonair (multi-piano ensemble), to name a few. He won multiple competition prizes and scholarships, and was featured in various major events including Bowdoin International Piano Festival (USA), Glissando International Piano Festival (USA), Costa Rica Piano Festival (Costa Rica), and Piano Gala (Malaysia), among others.

He is frequently invited to serve as an adjudicator for international piano competitions and music festivals. Over the years, he has judged over 50 music competitions held in the United States, China, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, and Malaysia. Other than his involvement as an adjudicator, he is also very much in demand as a guest piano faculty, and has given lectures, workshops,

and piano masterclasses throughout Asia and USA. He is also regularly invited as a guest examiner by music institutes and universities.

As a versatile composer, he has composed works of different genres, from classical to contemporary. His most recent commissioned work include “Loving Life” for Choir and String Orchestra (premiered at opening ceremony of Asia Pacific Arts Festival 2018, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; this work has also been performed in USA, Vietnam and Cambodia), and “Wind Gust(s)” for Piano Solo (specially commissioned by the Kingsburg International Piano Competition 2018, Yantai, China).

A sought after teacher, Ian Goh’s students have won numerous international and national competitions. They have been featured in major venues including Carnegie Hall (USA), Auditorium Parco Della Musica (Italy), Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts Recital Hall (Hong Kong), Taipei National University of the Arts (Taiwan), as well as Thailand Cultural Centre Recital Hall (Thailand). His students have received scholarships from prestigious music conservatories and universities including Eastman School of Music, Manhattan School of Music, Jacobs School of Music, and Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music.

Ian Goh is the President of World Piano Teachers Association Malaysia (WPTA Malaysia), the Founder and Artistic Director of The Fathomage Project (a project that organises recitals and masterclasses internationally), the founding member of Debonair (a multi-piano ensemble), the Artistic Director of Putra International Piano Competition, and the Chairman of Jury for Asia Pacific Arts Festival.