

PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES

Charles Asch has performed locally with the Bach Society of Minnesota, Lyra Baroque Orchestra, and Bach Roots Ensemble on his 18th-century Austrian cello. He has also performed solo and chamber music at Rossin Music Hall, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, the Baroque Room, and in venues and parks throughout the Twin Cities for Bach Society's Mobile Mini-Concerts. He completed his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Minnesota, and his master's degree at Juilliard. He has studied a variety of cello techniques and styles with teachers including Jaap ter Linden, Tanya Remenikova, Fred Sherry, Richard Aaron and Hans Jensen. He teaches cello currently at Mount Calvary Academy in Excelsior and privately in Long Lake, and has taught at MacPhail Center for Music, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, and University of Minnesota Morris.

Samuel Backman currently serves as Director of Sacred Music at Holy Cross Catholic Church, where he chairs a multi-faceted music program across three campuses. Samuel functions as principal organist and as conductor and founder of the Holy Cross Choir, St. Helena Singers, and Tenebrae Choir. An active performer, Samuel has been featured as an organ recitalist for conferences hosted by the American Guild of Organists and the Church Music Association of America. His performances have also been featured on Pipedreams, a service of YourClassical Minnesota Public Radio and American Public Media hosted by Michael Barone. He is also a composer and arranger of music for choir, organ, piano, and chamber ensembles, and his compositions have been published by Paraclete Press. In January 2024, he premiered *Symfonia Koled*, a four-movement symphony for organ, and will soon debut a 30-minute song cycle for soprano and organ.

Michael Barone came to Minnesota in 1968 and has worked for Minnesota Public Radio since its beginnings, initially and for 25 years as network music director, and later involved in national program production. He is the founding host and producer of www.PIPEDREAMS.org, which has aired nationally for more than four decades. He also has been the manager of these Before Bach's Birthday Bashes since the beginning of time.

Katie Boardman, soprano, has performed with ensembles around the country, including VocalEssence, the Mirandola Ensemble, the Rose Ensemble, the Boston Camerata, Border CrosSing, and the St. Tikhon's Choir. She appears on the PaTRAM Institute Singers' GRAMMY-nominated recording of Kurt Sander's Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, and was a VOCES8 Scholar in 2019-20. A native of Wisconsin, she grew to love early music at the Madison Early Music Festival and holds a degree in Historical Performance from Boston University. She maintains an active voice teaching studio in St. Paul, MN. www.katieboardman.com

Hyein Choi, originally from South Korea, embarked on her musical journey at the age of four, igniting a passion for the piano that has since defined her career. Hyein holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Yonsei University in South Korea and a Master of Music degree and Performance Diploma from Indiana University where she studied with Professor Naoumoff. Currently in All But Dissertation (ABD) status, Hyein is pursuing a DMA degree in Piano Performance at the University of Minnesota School of Music under the tutelage of Professor Braginsky.

Hyein has achieved significant recognition through awards, including Third Place in the American Classical Young Music Award and Second Place in the Marker and Pioneer International Music Competition (MAP-IMC) in 2021. She was also the winner of the Annual Concerto Competition at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Her commitment to musical education extends beyond academia. She served as an Associate Instructor at Indiana University

and as a Teaching Assistant at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Currently she holds the position of Visiting Instructor of Music at St. Olaf College. Hyein's multifaceted expertise and accolades underscore her vibrant contribution to the world of music education and performance.

Venezuelan American pianist **Inés Guanchez** began her piano studies at the Instituto Superior de Artes of Costa Rica under the tutelage of Aleksander Skliutovsky. At age fifteen she traveled to Minnesota to study with Professor Alexander Braginsky through the Pre-Conservatory Center of Excellence at Shattuck-St. Mary's School. Inés then proceeded to complete her bachelor's and master's in Piano Performance with him at the University of Minnesota, as well as a BA and MA in Mass Communications from the Hubbard School of Journalism.

Inés has performed as a soloist with the Costa Rica Symphony Orchestra and the Perugia Music Fest Orchestra. She has also placed in international and national competitions such as the Costa Rican Young Soloists Competition, the Fourth Stanislaw Moniuszko International Slavic Music Competition, the 32nd Annual Ithaca College Youth Piano Competition and Thursday Musical, among others. Inés' chamber music endeavors have taken her to perform in venues in Italy, San Francisco, South Carolina, Costa Rica and the Twin Cities, including Orchestra Hall and the American Swedish Institute.

Currently, Inés is part of the Dúo Ávila, a Venezuelan violin and piano duo focused on programming music written by composers outside of the classical canon, specifically Latin American and women composers. The duo has completed numerous projects in cities across the United States and Latin America, including their latest concert series, "Portraits of Women in Music," which took place in the Twin Cities in March 2023.

Inés is also an Associate Digital Producer at YourClassical Minnesota Public Radio, where she uses her piano performance and mass communication expertise to keep local and international audiences connected to classical music.

Richard Gray has served as the Director of Music and Organist for St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, Saint Paul, MN, since the Fall of 2018. He is Artistic Director of the church's Winifred Bean Sacred Music Series and coordinator of the choral compline ministry. He is currently preparing the choir for its first England Choral Evensong Residency at both Canterbury and St. Albans Cathedrals in July of 2024.

Richard has held positions on the music staffs of St. George's Episcopal Church, Nashville, where he trained as organ scholar, and Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Dallas, as assisting organist during graduate music studies. He holds degrees from Southern Methodist University and Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Additional studies and training have been at the McGill Summer Organ Academy Montréal, the Atlanta Summer Conducting Institute as a Conducting Fellow, the Cambridge Choral Summer Course, and the University of North Texas Conducting Symposium.

Richard serves as a member-at-large on the board of the Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and is on the planning committee for the June 2024 National Conference of the Association of Anglican Musicians to be held in Minnesota.

Nils C. Halker II has been Parish Organist of Saint Clement's Episcopal Church since 2006. He is active in the Organ Historical Society, having served on the planning committee for the 2017 national convention held in Minnesota. Additionally, he is an at-large editor of the Society's national journal, *The Tracker*. He serves on the program planning committee for the Aeolian-Skinner organ in the University of Minnesota's Northrop Auditorium, on the board of the Young People's Symphony Concert Association of the Minnesota Orchestra, is chair of Twin Cities American Guild of Organists' Pipe Organ Heritage Committee, and is chair of the planning committee for the 2024 convention of the Association of Anglican Musicians. In 2022 he retired from the Science Museum of Minnesota, where he worked as a teacher educator for 25 years.

Kathrine Handford, a prize-winning recitalist, has appeared internationally and holds degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Concordia College-St. Paul, and the Eastman School of Music. She is chair of the program Committee and sub-dean of the TCAGO, and has served on National AGO committees and boards. At present she is Director of Music and Organist at the Church of Saint Mark in Saint Paul, and University Organist and Instructor of Organ at Concordia University in St. Paul.

Donna Hryniewicki completed her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities in 2008. She has studied with Julia Bogorad-Kogan of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Adam Kuenzel of the Minnesota Orchestra. She is an active freelance musician and private lesson instructor. After teaching at several universities and K-12 schools, she now works in corporate training.

David Jenkins retired in 2022 after serving 34 years in music ministry at the Saint Paul Seminary, and as an instructor in organ and harpsichord for the University of St. Thomas. He is Dean of the Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. He earned a DMA in Organ Performance and the Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music. He also holds degrees in organ performance from Oberlin Conservatory and the University of Iowa. His teachers have included Howard Don Small, Garth Peacock, Delbert Disselhorst, Grethe Krogh, and Russell Saunders.

South Korean pianist **Sehee Jeong** graduated from the University of Gachon with a Bachelor's degree. Currently, she is studying for her Master's degree in Piano Performance at the University of Minnesota School of Music. In 2016 she won first place at both the Seoul International Music Competition and the Korean Music Education Newspaper Competition. She has performed at International Art Hall in Seoul, several times in Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall in Minneapolis, and spares no effort in her academic pursuits in music. She has participated in the international master classes of Prof. Christopher Harding and Prof. Edward Auer, and has broadened her horizons by studying with Prof. Paul Shaw, Prof. Sanghee Lym, and Prof. Youngsook Kim. She plans to become more active as a concert soloist, beginning with this recital.

Christopher Kachian, guitarist, has performed in the UK, Ireland, Austria, Italy, Germany, Luxembourg, France, Sweden, Russia, Africa, Cuba, Costa Rica, Japan, China, and throughout North and South America, as recitalist, chamber musician and concerto soloist. He has appeared with the Minnesota Orchestra, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Minnesota Opera, and numerous festival orchestras. He has been heard on Minnesota Public Radio, National Public Radio and American Public Media. Since 1984, Dr. Kachian has directed one of the largest guitar programs in the USA at the University of St. Thomas where he is professor of music.

Charlotte Lee was born in Hong Kong, and raised in various countries around Europe. At the age of five, Lee made a significant appearance at the Zushi Dragon Concert, in Zushi, Japan. In 2015, Lee was awarded the Grand Prize of the Grand Prize Virtuoso

Competition and was invited to perform at the Royal Albert Hall in London, England. A few months later, she was invited to perform at the Grand Gala Concert of the Osaka International Music Competition, alongside Maestro Shungo Moriyama. That same year, she was awarded a full scholarship to study at Wells Cathedral School, one of the five specialist music schools in the United Kingdom. While studying in the United Kingdom, Lee received many prizes at various competitions and festivals, including the Taunton Music Festival, the Bristol Music Festival, the Oxford Music Festival, the Bath Music Festival, and finally numerous awards from the Mid-Somerset Festival. In the summer of 2016, she participated in the Encore Music Projects, and had the opportunity to meet and collaborate with other talented musicians from across the globe.

In 2017 Lee relocated to Germany to further her studies. She studied with Koh Gabriel Kameda, who at the time was teaching at the Detmold Hochschule für Musik. Lee participated in the national competition *Jugend musiziert* and was awarded 1st prize. In 2018 Lee was invited to perform in a joint concert, for which the special guest was the renowned pianist Alexander Paley. In 2019 she was the winner of the Amygdala International Music Competition, Group aged 18 and under, in Sicily. In the summer of 2021, she was invited to perform in the Victoria International Arts Festival, where critics said Lee "...performed with great precision and bravura, completely absorbed in her music-making." In 2021 she also managed to receive top prizes at *X Internazionale per Giovani Musicisti*, International Music Dance and Fine Arts Competition Alpin Triglav 2021, International Competition of Music and Arts TOKYO STARS, and the Iscart International Music Competition among others and attained her Licentiate (LTCL) as well as Fellowship of Trinity College, London (FTCL) certificates.

Upon coming to the United States, Lee was the winner of the Minnesota Sinfonia's 2022 Young Artist Competition, Senior Division, and was invited to perform the Bruch Concerto in G minor with the orchestra. Lee, who has just turned 17, currently studies with Sally O'Reilly at the University of Minnesota. She has been in the masterclasses of Michael Vaiman, Irina Simon-Renes, Ingolf Turban, Magdalena Rezler, Ilya Kaler, Igor Petrushevskiy, and has attended several summer courses, such as the *Międzynarodowy Kurs Skrzypcowy im. Tadeusza Wrońskiego* in Poland, the Talent Music Summer Courses and Festival in Italy, the Encore Music Projects in England and several other courses.

Ju Young Lee, DMA, is an organist, pianist, and conductor originally from South Korea. She earned her BA in organ performance and her MMus in choral conducting from Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea, and her DMA in organ performance and secondary in choral conducting from the University of Minnesota, where she was a student of Dr. Dean Billmeyer. She has been actively involved with numerous choirs as a conductor, accompanist, and singer both in South Korea and USA. As a music educator, Dr. Lee has taught at Gangneung-Wonju National University, Kwangshin University, and Yonsei University Future Education Institute. She also served as a visiting scholar in the Choral Activities of Music Department at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Currently, she holds the positions of Organist at Christ Presbyterian Church in Edina and Co-Director of Keyboard Activities and Organ Instructor at Bethel University in St. Paul, and serves as one of the Board Members of Twin Cities AGO.

Stacie Lightner is the Cantor at St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church in Saint Paul, where she serves as organist, directs the Chancel Choir and Wings of Grace handbell choir, and leads faith formation activities. She holds undergraduate and Master of Music degrees from The University of Kansas and a DMus in organ performance from McGill University in Montreal. She is a deacon in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and a member of the Deaconess Community, so she uses the title Sister.

Zachariah Mandell hails from Clearfield, Pennsylvania, and has lived in the Twin Cities since 2020. Zach grew up in a musical family (his father was his high school band director), and he has played trombone ever since his third-grade music teacher told him his arms were too short - take that! He went to Penn State University as an undergraduate, playing and marching with the award-winning Blue Band all four years. He has played numerous concerts and particularly enjoys playing in pit orchestras. He is currently the Music Director at St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral in NE Minneapolis.

David Mickens began studying the violin at age seven. His parents were both professional music educators, and David and his three sisters all pursued musical careers. He received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Northern Colorado and performed extensively with the University Orchestras, the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra, the Denver Symphony Young Artists Orchestra and two summer seasons with the National Repertory Orchestra. He has also performed in many chamber music ensembles in Colorado and Minnesota. David taught the middle, junior and high school orchestras in his hometown for one year. He then went on to earn his Master of Music degree in violin performance from Northwestern University. At Northwestern he met Brenda and they married in 1980. Since making Minnesota their home, David has taught private violin lessons and performed as a freelance violinist with the Minnesota Orchestra, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and numerous other ensembles, ballets, theater productions and celebrity shows in the Twin Cities. He is a violinist in the Minnesota Opera Orchestra. David organizes the Gift of Music recital series at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, and has been a frequent performer on these programs showcasing the talents of the church's many fine musicians.

Osip Nikiforov is a Russian pianist, who studied under the tutelage of the world-renowned pianist Yefim Bronfman at Manhattan School of Music and is a Third prize winner of the 2016 San Antonio International Piano Competition.

Born in the city of Abakan in Siberia to a family of musicians, Osip started studying piano with his father at age six. Since 2010 Osip Nikiforov has been residing in the United States. In 2023 Mr. Nikiforov performed a series of all-Rachmaninoff solo programs in Texas and Minnesota, dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the birth of the composer. In 2020 he was awarded First prize at the San Antonio Young Artist Tuesday Musical Competition. Osip is regularly invited to perform at concert series as well as festivals, including the Schubert Club Courtroom Concert Series in Saint Paul, the Salon se Leve Concert Series in Minneapolis, the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series in Chicago, the Memorial Classical Music Series in Houston, and the Mozart Festival Texas in San Antonio. Besides in the United States, he has given solo recitals in Spain, Israel, South Africa, Russia, and Japan. Osip has also frequently collaborated with national and international orchestras, including the St. Petersburg State Academic Capella Symphony Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Khakass Philharmonic Orchestra, the Incarnate Word Symphony Orchestra, and the Golden Valley Symphony Orchestra. In 2016 he received the Adopt a Young Artist award, given to a young classical musician in Minnesota. He is also the Second prize winner of 2014 Music Teacher National Association Competition in the Young Artist Division in Chicago.

Osip Nikiforov graduated from Shattuck-St. Mary's School in Minnesota and the University of Minnesota, studying piano with Alexander Braginsky, the last student of Alexander Goldenweiser. Currently, he is a Malcolm W. Perkins Teaching Fellow in the Doctor of Musical Arts program at Rice University, studying with Jon Kimura Parker. He has also appeared on Performance Today by YourClassical MPR, WFMT Radio, GetClassical, Classical Connect, Star Tribune, and Houston Press. Besides performing, Osip also

enjoys making his own transcriptions for piano as well as playing solo jazz piano. In Fall 2021 Osip's first piano solo album "Russian Elegie" was released by Orpheus Classical Label on all major digital platforms.

Starting piano lessons at an early age, **Mark Overman** switched to organ study as a teenager and continued musical studies from there. He obtained his bachelor's degree from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the MM and DMA degrees from the University of Michigan. Finding that life required working for the business world, he has nonetheless always found somewhere to continue working with the instrument and its literature. In the Twin Cities he has subbed at select churches and performed at area events.

Catherine Rodland, whose playing has been described as "transcendent" (The American Organist), is Artist in Residence at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. She graduated cum laude with departmental distinction in organ performance from St. Olaf in 1987 and received both the MM and DMA from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY where she was a student of Russell Saunders. At Eastman, Catherine received the prestigious Performer's Certificate and the Ann Anway Award for excellence in organ performance. She is a prizewinner in several competitions including the 1994 and 1998 American Guild of Organists Young Artists Competition, the 1994 Calgary International Organ Competition, and the 1988 International Organ Competition at the University of Michigan for which she received first prize. Catherine has concertized extensively throughout the United States and Canada, and has been featured often on the syndicated radio program "Pipedreams" on YourClassical Minnesota Public Radio and American Public Media. She was a featured performer at the American Guild of Organists National Convention online in July 2020.

At St. Olaf College Catherine teaches a full studio of organ students as well as music theory and ear training classes. She performs regularly at St. Olaf, dedicating the Holtkamp organ in Boe Memorial Chapel in 2007, and performing as a featured soloist with the St. Olaf Orchestra and the St. Olaf Band. These performances were all recorded and released as CDs through St. Olaf Records. Currently Catherine is presenting a series of recitals featuring the complete organ symphonies of Louis Vierne, after having spent a recent sabbatical leave researching organs in Paris. In 2010 she released two CDs: "Dedication" on the newly installed Nichols and Simpson Organ at West Side Presbyterian Church in Ridgewood, NJ, and "American Weavings," recorded in Boe Chapel at St. Olaf College with violist and duo partner Carol Rodland and released by Crystal Records. The Rodland Duo is currently part of the Concert Artists Cooperative, and was featured at both the American Guild of Organists national convention in Houston, Texas, and the American Viola Congress in Oberlin, Ohio during the spring of 2016.

Emily R. E. Roth began her organ studies in high school under the tutelage of Lee Afdahl in Rochester, Minnesota. After receiving a scholarship offer from the University of Iowa, she began studying organ full time with Dr. Gregory Hand. Furthering her studies with Dr. Dean Billmeyer at the University of Minnesota, she achieved her Masters degree in Organ Performance in 2023. Currently she is serving as organist of the Congregational Church in Rochester, Minnesota as well as working as a piano and organ instructor. Along with her musical studies, her other interests include painting, singing, and performing popular music.

Wolfgang RübSam, internationally known for his many recordings and his work as a pedagogue in organ performance studies, moved to the Twin Cities area in 2019 and was appointed organist at Saint Helena Catholic Church, Minneapolis in 2022.

Versatile in repertoire across different periods and styles, **Koki Sato** is a classical pianist with interdisciplinary interests. As an advocate of new music and its potential in expanding the boundaries of classical music, Sato is a founder of the University of Minnesota New Music Ensemble and was featured by Minnesota Public Radio. Furthermore, his passion for community engagement through music led him to such collaborative projects as the Out and About Outreach Program at the Saint Paul Conservatory of Music, the Music under the Dome Concert Series at Coca-Cola Space Science Center, and the opening performance at the Japanese Society of Pediatric Allergy and Clinical Immunology.

A first-prize winner of national and regional competitions including the Schubert Club Competition, Atlanta Music Club Scholarship Audition, and Student Music Competition of Japan, Sato has performed with several orchestras, most notably with the Toho Gakuen Orchestra conducted by Leon Fleischer at the Suntory Hall in Tokyo. His participation in music festivals includes *Klangspuren Schwaz* in Austria as a member of the Klangspuren International Ensemble Modern Academy, the Oxford Piano Festival in the UK, and the International Keyboard Institute and Festival in New York.

Born in Tokyo, Sato received the prestigious Woodruff Award for his undergraduate studies with Alexander Kobrin and Tatiana Muzanova at Columbus State University. Sato currently pursues a doctoral degree under Alexander Braginsky at the University of Minnesota.

Timothy Strand is the Director of Music and Organist at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Saint Paul. Tim is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College where he received his BA in Church Music and studied with Jan Bender and David Fienen. He later earned his Master of Music degree in Organ Performance and Church Music at the Indiana University School of Music, where he studied with Larry Smith and Marilyn Keiser. Tim has served various parishes in the Twin Cities over the last four decades including Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Roseville, Jehovah Lutheran Church in Saint Paul, St. Luke's and St. Paul's Episcopal Churches and University Lutheran Church of Hope in Minneapolis. He has been the staff accompanist for Magnum Chorum for over 20 years and regularly plays on promotional recordings for Augsburg Fortress.

Pianist and composer **Ruizhi Gabrielle Wang** has performed in Belgium, England, Italy, Germany, Taiwan, the People's Republic of China, Spain, France, Poland, Switzerland, and the United States. This year she was invited to perform concerts in *Maisons-Latte*, France, *Kammermusiksaal* of the *Berliner Philharmoniker*, Estonia, and a chamber concert at Carnegie Hall, United States in the upcoming season.

Gabrielle also the winner of many international prizes and awards, including Concerto Competition in Brescia, Italy, Euregio Piano International Competition Award (2018), King's Peak International Competition (2021) She was also a 2022 Nominee for the Gold Prize and Annual Award of London Young Musician, Gold Prize of VIRTUOSO International Music in London (2023) and The Euterpe Music Awards (2023), Awards 3rd Prize of Paul Badura-Skoda International Piano Competition in Vienna (2023), 1st Place Winner of Marvin O. Mechelke II Competition with \$3000 Award. She holds degrees from University of Minnesota Twin Cities, *L'École Normale de la Musique de Paris*, and *CRR de Paris*.

William Wilson, native of Philadelphia, PA, attended Settlement School of Music, Hope College, and Eastman School of Music. Bill has always been an organist in one way or another in addition to being a U. S. Army musician, director of church music, software developer, and pastor. In retirement, he enjoys being a "summer sub" for local churches, singing in the choir at St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral, working in his garden, and enjoying family and grandchildren.

Ruo Chen Xi performs internationally as both a solo pianist and an accompanist. Studying music since age five, Ruochen was trained at Shenyang Conservatory of Music and Mannes School of Music.

His gifts as a collaborative pianist had been honored in competitions across China: Northern Music Award (first place), LuYI Music Competition (second place), and Hummingbird Music Award (first place). Ruochen has given a concert tour at universities in China's northern region and was invited to perform for the German Ambassador to China. In the United States, Ruochen won first place at the Elite International Music Competition, performing in Carnegie Hall. Passionate about music reaching a broader audience, Ruochen participated in the "Mannes Sound" at Mannes School of Music.

While in college pursuing a Bachelor's degree in piano performance, Ruochen had a special interest in collaborative piano, not just performing as a soloist. Ruochen was honored as an "outstanding student" at the Shenyang Conservatory of Music Hall, in both solo and chamber music.

Among his many awards, Ruochen achieved first place in the Hong Kong International Youth Piano Competition Northern Region in 2015, earning invitations to perform solo piano works at Northeastern University's School of Music. As a collaborative pianist, he received the First Prize in the Northern Music Award of China in 2015, touring universities in the northern region, including Shenyang Normal University, Jilin Academy of Arts, Northeast Normal University, and Harbin Normal University. In 2016 he got the Second Prize in chamber music at the Luyi Shenyang Conservatory of Music Competition. In 2018 he won the First Prize in the German "Hummingbird Music Award" China Regional Competition as a collaborative pianist and was invited to perform for the German Ambassador to China and received free tickets to attend masterclasses in Germany.

In the summer of 2019, Ruochen earned third place in the New York International Music Festival piano solo competition and performed at the Church of the Holy Apostles.

In 2020 he was admitted by Mannes School of Music to begin his Master's degree in piano performance. In 2021, as a solo pianist he participated in the "Mannes Sound" concert and the charity event "Save Children" at Mannes School of Music in the Ernst C. Stiefel Concert Hall. In February 2022 he won the First Prize in the Elite International Music Competition as a solo pianist and performed at the Carnegie Hall. In September 2022 he successfully completed his solo recital at the Ernst C. Stiefel Concert Hall and graduated from Mannes.

After graduation, he continued his piano career and received an offer from University of Minnesota School of Music in March 2023. He is working as a teaching assistant and pursuing a DMA degree in piano performance with the famous pianist Alexander Braginsky.