

EVENT INTRODUCTION

The VIVACE France International Piano & Strings Competition is a prestigious international music competition held for Eight years. It enjoys a strong reputation in the global music competition scene and is recognised as a benchmark event in the industry. The competition aims to enhance cultural exchange and collaboration among international music talents.



VIVACE (Italian musical term, translated as: lively, full of vitality, conveying the vitality and passion of art and music) International Piano & String Competition in France is accepting global entries. The preliminary competition took place in 30 cities and the global final was successfully held at the world-famous Cortot concert hall in Paris. More outstanding competitors have been given the opportunity to learn and exchange one-on-one with outstanding masters.

- ***Our Strengths***

VIVACE events are held in more than 30 provinces and cities in China, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, New Zealand and other countries and regions. During the finals, a number of cultural exchanges were carried out, such as the Sino-French Music Master Class, the Concert of Pianists and the Paris Art Appreciation Tour.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

◆ Global Organizers



Association
de la Pratique Artistique
Sino-Française (A.P.A.)

Organized by the Association de la Pratique Artistique Sino-Française (A.P.A., Paris Police Office registration number: W751254327). The association brings together well-known artists and scholars from prestigious universities. It aims to build a bridge for in-depth artistic exchanges between countries, to review, formulate and implement various cultural exchanges, and to promote the common prosperity of culture and art between countries.

◆ Australia&New Zealand host



Aster Echo Culture has extensive experience in organizing music competitions. It hosted the New Zealand preli round of the Vivace International Piano Competition in both 2023 and 2025.

The Australia and New Zealand preliminary round and grand final round will be held in 2026

JUDGES FOR THE GLOBAL FINALS

JEAN-LOUIS CAILLARD



- French Pianist
- Professor at the Paris Debussy Conservatory
- Founder of Piano L'Atelier

LAN CUI



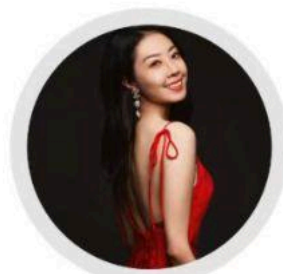
- Professor at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music
- Master's Supervisor in Piano Collaborative Arts
- Artistic Director of the Voice and Song Department
- Yamaha-endorsed Educator
- Mentor at the Salzburg Summer Music Festival

EMILIE CALLESEN DOULCET



- Danish Violinist
- Master's Degree in Violin Performance, Royal Danish Academy of Music (RDAM)
- Advanced Postgraduate Studies, ERASMUS Exchange Program, Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris (CNSMDP)
- Founder and Director of French Connection Academy
- Founder and Director of Art for Democracy

YUN ZHOU



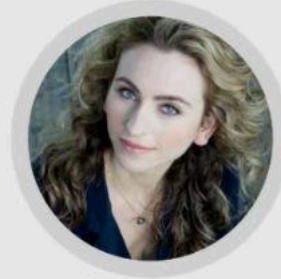
- UK-based Pianist
- Secretary General, China Division of the World Piano Teachers Association (WPTA)
- Alumnus and Scholarship Recipient, Royal Academy of Music (UK)
- Principal Piano Instructor, School of Music, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (Singapore)

HANXIANG XU



- UK-based Canadian Concert Pianist
- Steinway Young Artist
- Honorary Artist of the World Piano Teachers Association (WPTA)
- Dual Master's Degrees, Royal Academy of Music (UK)

KATINKA VON RICHTER



- German state-certified “Konzert examen” honorary concert pianist
- Last protégé of Anatol Ugorski
- Professor at the Rachmaninoff Conservatory in Paris
- Selected artist of the French National Artist-in-Residence Program
- Hannes Frank Foundation Scholarship recipient
- Founder of Piano Academy Paris
- Creator of “Instant Piano Paris”, an interdisciplinary music short film project
- Winner of the “Kunst trifft Kunst” Award (Staatsgalerie Stuttgart); featured on Culture Channel 124 and broadcast in over 100 countries

FRANÇOISE THINAT



- National Treasure-level French pianist and educator
- Recipient of the French Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier)
- Chair of the Jury at the Orléans International Piano Competition
- Professor at the École Normale de Musique de Paris
- Former professor at the National Conservatories of Toulouse and Orléans
- Awardee of the French Association for Music Education Publishing
- Author of 10 Ans avec le Piano and several other piano education books

MARC LAFORET



- Artistic Director and President of the Jury, Marguerite Long International Piano Competition
- Second Prize, 1985 International Chopin Piano Competition
- Gold Medalist, Cziffra Foundation
- Gold Medalist, Yehudi Menuhin Foundation
- Artistic Advisor, European Young Concert Artists Auditions
- Artistic Director, Festival Les Grands Crus Musicaux, Bordeaux

ALEXANDRE RUSSILOVSKY



- Renowned Russian-born violinist based in France
- Professor at the École Normale de Musique de Paris
- Grand Prize Winner, Jacques Thibaud International Competition
- Artistic Director of “Masters au Château de Crémault” EBEF Academy and multiple international music festivals
- Founder and Chairman of the Yuri Yankelevitch International Violin Competition (Omsk, Russia)
- Founder of Ricercata Azi (Ensemble Ricercata de Paris)

JEAN-BAPTISTE DOULCET



- Silver Medalist, 8th Nordic Piano Competition
- Awardee of the Charles-Ulmon Foundation
- Fourth Prize and Audience Prize Winner, Marguerite Long International Piano Competition
- Recognized by CLASSICA magazine as one of the rising stars of French piano alongside Alexandre Kantorow and Remi Geniet

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS COMPETITIONS

◆ *New Zealand Preliminary Round*

The 2025 Vivace International Piano Competition New Zealand region concluded successfully, allowing the children to gain confidence on stage and experience the tranquility and joy brought by music.





◆ *France Final*

The final round of the 2025 Vivace International Piano Competition concluded successfully at the Cortot Concert Hall in Paris. Young pianists from the New Zealand region secured three first-place awards and one second-place award in the final round. A music salon was also held at the Castle of a Hundred Years, where participants from around the world, having initially been strangers, found common ground and shared music and joy together.





◆ *New Zealand Preliminary Round*

The 2023 Vivace International Piano Competition was successfully completed at the Town Hall with hundreds of New Zealand little musicians.



Organizers Doris Tong (right) and Christy Zhang (left) Judge Matteo Napoli (centre)

· The appearances of the contestants ·





◆ *France Final*

The Grand Final of the 2023 Vivace International Piano Competition has been successfully completed at the Concert Hall of Corto in Paris.

The younger players from the New Zealand Preliminary Round achieved five of First Place and two of Second Prize in the final.

After the competition, the candidates not only were very lucky to have the guidance from the judge, but also had a week of study in Paris, a rare learning opportunity and a high-quality platform, and the pianists had a great deal of satisfaction.



The award-winning young musicians from New Zealand

· Highlights of New Zealand Musicians in the finals in France (part)





PREVIOUS STUDY TRIPS

· 2024 Singapore Music Festival ·



· Study Tour in France 2023 ·





· 2019 Study Tour in France ·



