

Young Artist Program (YAP) Report - Annual General Meeting 2023

In 2022 – 2023 the Young Artist Program hired 10 young artists for the season, and 2 for the Roots and Branches Mentorship Concert Project. (Hwan Gyu Cho performed twice). All season concerts opened with a featured young artist, and performers were paired with other applicants for the first time. The performers were:

John Himes, guitar

Albert Chen, piano

Liana Fonseca, violin

Hwan Gyu Cho, clarinet* Mentorship

Anica Warkentine, piano* Mentorship

Duo: Grace Lu, piano, Shea Carter, voice

Duo: Anna Schwartz, piano, Eli Granger, Euphonium

Duo: Georg Neuhofer, piano, Alice Macgregor, voice

Hwan Gyu Cho, solo clarinet

At the December concert, violinist Liana Fonseca not only performed at the beginning, but had the opportunity to perform alongside Andriana Chuchman during the concert.

January was the inaugural Mentorship concert featuring Clarinetist Hwan Gyu Cho, and pianist Anica with mentors Minna Rose Chung, cello; Caitlin Broms-Jacobs, oboe; Madeline Hildebrand, piano; and Layla Roberts, flute. The concert was sponsored by Manitoba Arts Council and the performers were chosen by audition and application to the Young Artist Program, and references.

In Spring of 2023 we had a total of 16 total applicants with 13 young artists selected; and 4 applicants for the Mentorship Concert Project with 2 young artists selected. Young Artist Program Director and Founder Madeline Hildebrand stepped down.

With the departure of YAP director and founder Madeline Hildebrand, Sydney Clarke and Katherine Mayba assumed the roles of YAP co-directors in the fall of 2023.

The transition of the new co-directors coincided with the beginning of the 2023/24 Virtuosi Concerts season.

For the 2023/24 YAP auditions there were

In anticipation of the new season, the selected young artists were contacted in the summer of 2023 to confirm availability and repertoire. This task was undertaken by Sydney Clarke who facilitated between the young artists and Artistic Director, Jennifer Thiessen.

The 2023/24 YAP featured a total of 13 individual artists, with two groups performing as trios and two groups performing as duos. It is notable to mention that out of the seven Virtuosi Concerts this season over half of the YAP performed in collaborative groups.

Virtuosi Concerts- Annual General Meeting- March 17, 2024

Listed are the names of the YAP participants, in order of performance date:

1. Yanzhi Zhang (solo piano)- October 13, 2023
2. Trio: Alice Macgregor (soprano), Joel Ulrich (flute) and Grace Lu (piano)- November 4, 2023
3. Qiqi Zhang (solo violin)- December 10, 2023
4. Duo: Sam Ferguson (trumpet) and Raymond Ding (piano) – January 14, 2024
5. Trio: The Triad featuring Bella-Sophia Rogers (violin), Mikayla Sawatzky (viola) and Sophie Caron (cello) – March 2, 2024
6. Due: Elizabeth Seale (violin) and Georg Neuhofer (piano)- April 7, 2024
7. Angela Suet Kee Ng (piano)- May 12, 2024

2023 featured auditions for the second annual Roots and Branches Mentorship Concert Project. An extension of the Virtuosi YAP, The Mentorship Concert Project was created to nurture young chamber musicians and support artistic development.

Two young artists were selected to participate in the Mentorship Concert Project: cellist Patricia Vanuci and soprano Camryn Dewar.

The mentor musicians included violinist Kerry DuWors and pianist Everett Hopfner.

Preparation and collaboration between young artists and mentors happened over the fall and winter of 2023, with the Mentorship Concert taking place January 14, 2024.

Looking ahead to the 2024/25 season the YAP auditions and Mentorship Concert project auditions will take place in May 2024.

With the growing trend of ensemble applications, we anticipate many YAP applicants to be open and interested in collaborative performance opportunities.

Katherine Mayba and Sydney Clarke, YAP co-directors