

Short:

Yue Yu, named one of Classic FM's *Rising Stars* of 2022, is a Chinese violist celebrated for her vibrant solo performances. She has won top prizes at prestigious competitions including the Paul Hindemith Viola Concorso and Stockport International Young Musicians Competition. Her debut album on the Naxos label, featuring works by Britten, Imogen Holst, and Bowen, has garnered international praise.

A passionate chamber musician, she has collaborated with renowned artists such as Steven Isserlis and Steven Doane, and participated in festivals including IMS Prussia Cove, Wye Valley Chamber Music, and the inaugural edition of the VIVACISSIMO Festival. Yue frequently tours with the Salzburg Camerata and Ensemble Esperanza.

Since November 2023, she has been an Akademistin with the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin and she will begin a solo viola position with the Magdeburgische Philharmonie in the 2025/26 season. She holds degrees from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and Universität Mozarteum Salzburg with Dr. Louise Lansdown and Professor Thomas Riebl. Yue plays a viola made by E. Ceruti viola in 1865, generously loaned to her by the Hepner Foundation.

Full biography:

Born in 1997 and raised in Shenzhen, China, **Yue Yu** moved abroad at the age of 18 and has since lived in the UK, Austria, and Germany while travelling extensively. At 22, she recorded her debut album for Naxos and was named one of Classic FM's *Rising Stars* in 2022. Yue has garnered international accolades, including first prizes at the Salzburg Paul Hindemith Viola Concorso and the Stockport International Young Musicians Competition. She was also invited to perform live at both the Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition (2019) and the Tokyo International Viola Competition (2022 and 2025), reaching the second round on both occasions. As a finalist in the 2017 Cecil Aronowitz International Viola Competition, she won the Bishop Instruments and Bows Prize, receiving a £5,000 silver-mounted Guillaume viola bow for her exceptional performance of York Bowen's *Viola Sonata in C minor* during the semi-final round.

During her undergraduate studies at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, where she was awarded a full scholarship, Yue received numerous accolades. In 2017, she was nominated by the conservatoire as the sole annual recipient of the Silver Medal from the Worshipful Company of Musicians in London, and in 2019, she received the Principal Prize for her outstanding contributions to the conservatoire.

Yue completed her master's studies at the Universität Mozarteum Salzburg under the guidance of Prof. Thomas Riebl, followed by postgraduate studies with him, which she completed in January 2024. She was selected as an Akademistin with the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin (RSB) and recently won a one-year contract with the Magdeburgische Philharmonie orchestra as solo viola for the 2025/26 season. She currently performs on a viola made by E. Ceruti in 1865, generously loaned to her by the Hepner Foundation.

Yue has participated in leading festivals such as the Ravinia Festival, IMS Prussia Cove Masterclasses and Open Chamber Music, the International Mendelssohn Festival, the Schiermonnikoog Festival, the Vivacissimo Festival, and the Stellenbosch, Wye Valley, and Ulverston International Chamber Music Festivals. Chamber music is her greatest passion, and she has collaborated with renowned musicians including Steven Isserlis, Steven Doane, Clive Greensmith, Pavel Gililov, Thomas Riebl, and Timothy Ridout, as well as ensembles such as the London Bridge Piano Trio, the Amatis Piano Trio, the Primrose Piano Quartet, and the Berolina Ensemble.

A scholar at the International Academy of Music in Liechtenstein and a member of Ensemble Esperanza, Yue also frequently appears as a guest with the Salzburg Camerata. Music has taken her to over ten countries, she has performed in prestigious venues such as Birmingham Town Hall, Wigmore Hall in London, Salzburg Solitär Saal, the Vienna Konzerthaus, the Berlin Philharmonie, and the Berlin Konzerthaus.

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