

Yue Yu was born into a non-musical family in 1997, Shenzhen, China. Started having violin lessons since 6 years old, she switched to viola at 12. She went to the Music School affiliated to Xinghai Conservatory of Music for 3 years to study with Prof. Hou Donglei before she moved to England in 2015, to study with Dr Louise Lansdown for a BMus (Hons) degree of viola performance at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. In 2019, she graduated with first class and moved to Austria where she is now pursuing a master's degree at Universität Mozarteum Salzburg with Prof. Thomas Riebl.

Yue was one of the five finalists in the 2017 Cecil Aronowitz International Viola Competition where she performed Hindemith's *Der Schwanendreher* with orchestra and was awarded the Bishop Instruments and Bows Prize with a £5000 silver mounted Guillaume viola bow for her semi-final round's outstanding performance of York Bowen's *Viola Sonata in C minor*.

Having particular interests in the highly romantic music by British composer York Bowen, Yue gave a recital of the composer's music with pianist Anthony Hewitt in Rotterdam as a contributor at the 45th International Viola Congress (2018). Yue was introduced and recommended by Julian Lloyd Webber, the Principal of RBC, to the prestigious Naxos Label when she was in her third year of undergraduate, and consequently recorded her debut solo album in September 2019.

Recorded in collaboration with pianist Anthony Hewitt and violinist Jeffrey Armstrong, this CD is a compilation of many short pieces for viola and piano (except for Bowen's 3 duos for violin and viola) by York Bowen, Imogen Holst, and a world-premiere recording of a work by Benjamin Britten – an arrangement of the final movement from the *Violin Suite No.6*. The CD is scheduled to be released in November 2022.

Yue has given concerts in many remarkable concert venues internationally – Birmingham Symphony Hall, Birmingham Town Hall, London Wigmore Hall, Stockport Town Hall, Cheltenham Town Hall, Salzburg Solitär, and more in Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, and China.

In February 2019, Yue performed Bartók's *Viola Concerto* (revised version) for the first time with RBC Symphony Orchestra and later in a month's time, the second time of her successful performance of the same concerto with Stockport Symphony Orchestra named her the winner of the 2019 Stockport International Young Musicians Competition and was further rewarded with more engagements with the conductor and the orchestra.

Chamber music plays an important part in Yue's musical life. She particularly enjoys the spontaneous musical communications and loves being the supporting character in chamber music. One of the highlights is a live-recorded video where she recorded the celebrated Schumann Piano Quartet in E-flat major, op.47 in February 2021, with the renowned concert pianist and professor at Mozarteum, Prof. Pavel Gililov, and Lea Hausmann and Sam Shepherd from Amatis Piano Trio (BBC New Generation Artist). She also especially loved the experience performing Mendelssohn and Enescu octets in 2 successful public performances in Birmingham CBSO Centre in March 2019, where she received heartfelt compliments. Some of the chamber music festivals that Yue has attended includes International Mendelssohn Festival, Stellenbosch International Chamber Music Festival, Wye Valley Chamber Music Festival and Ulverston International Music Festival. She appreciated the opportunities collaborating with renowned musicians and ensembles such as violinist Krysia

Osostowicz, the London Bridge Piano Trio and the Primrose Piano Quartet. As a quartet player, she had toured with the Salzburg-based Constanze Quartet in 2020 to Spain and received great feedbacks.

Yue received the Silver Medal from the Worshipful Company of Musicians in London in 2017, being the representative of Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. In 2019, she received the Principal Prize for outstanding contribution to the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Elsewhere, she is a scholar at the International Academy of Music in Liechtenstein and participates regularly in the intensive music weeks and activities offered by the Academy. In March 2021, Yue won the Paul Hindemith Viola Concorso in Salzburg.

Yue currently plays on her modern viola made by French Luthier Antoine Gourdon in 2015, which had won the International Viola Making Prize “Renaud Stahl in 2016, Paris”; her bow is a golden mounted French bow by P. Guillaume.

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