

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

2023 Sydney International Piano Competition Announces Semi Finalists

11th July 2023: The Sydney International Piano Competition (*The Sydney*) has announced the 12 pianists proceeding to the Semi Finals of the 2023 competition. Decided by an international jury of seven members, the 32 competitors from 16 countries have performed their Preliminary Round recitals over the past five days.

The Semi Finalists, in playing order, are:

Carter Johnson

Yungyung Guo

Saglam Korkmaz Can

Jeonghwan Kim

Uladzislau Khandohi

Philipp Lynov

Yuanfan Yang

Vitaly Starikov

Junyan Chen

Reuben Tsang

Wynona Yinuo Wang

Junlin Wu

The 12 Semi Finalists will compete across two rounds and 10 sessions from Wednesday 12th to Saturday 15th July at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, each performing a solo 70-minute recital and a sonata with either violinist Andrew Haveron or cellist Li-Wei Qin.

The six who progress through to the Finals will be announced approximately 10pm on Saturday 15th July, following the last competitive session.

The competition will be intense, culminating in each of the six Finalists delivering two concerto performances with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, held over four sessions from Tuesday 18th July to Saturday 22nd July at the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall.

The Sydney, which takes place every three years, will offer competitors a total prize pool of \$236,500 consisting of cash prizes, international concert engagements, CD recordings and career mentoring, making it one of the world's leading competitions of its kind.

Tickets for the public to attend the Semi Finals and Finals are available via Piano+'s website: <https://www.pianoplus.com.au/>.

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NOTES FOR THE EDITOR

ABOUT THE SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

The Sydney is one of the major international events of its kind in the world. Founded by the late Miss Claire Dan AM, OBE, Rex Hobcroft AM and Robert Tobias, it was inaugurated in July 1977 and has since been held every four years, except in 1988 when it was brought forward to coincide with the Bicentenary of Australia celebrations. *The Sydney* was admitted as a member of the Geneva based World Federation of International Music Competitions in 1978, the first Australian competition to be accepted as a member.

Sydney is not only a significant centre of the arts, but a city which has produced and fostered artists of international distinction, whose contributions to music are well known. The Sydney Opera House is a symbol of the city's commitment to attaining the highest standards in all areas of the performing arts. The Sydney Conservatorium of Music, in the centre of the city with its 'back-yard' the beautiful Royal Botanic Gardens, is home to the competition.

ABOUT PIANO+

Welcome to Piano+, an exciting new company emerging from the almost 50-year-old Sydney International Piano Competition (The Sydney). Piano+ will provide an essential resource for pianists and concert goers nationally and will foster the joy of piano-playing and provide opportunities for music education.

Over five decades, The Sydney has been in the international keyboard spotlight and has nurtured the very best of young international and Australian pianists. It has provided opportunities for Australian audiences to hear great talent, not only in Sydney, but in many places around the country. Now, Piano+ will take on those

responsibilities, will offer further musical experiences annually and will present The Sydney itself on a triennial basis.

Piano+ will be a presentation and production company with The Sydney the jewel in its presenting crown. It will offer regional tours for competition winners and extend existing education and outreach programs. The amateur online showcase Piano Lovers, The Sydney's response to the COVID pandemic, offering lovers of the piano across Australia and New Zealand a goal to work towards, will become an annual event. The success of Out West Piano Fest inaugurated in Bathurst in 2022 has ensured its return in 2023. Piano+ will offer the Composing the Future award in the future, supporting and encouraging the composition of new Australian works for the piano.

Piano+ will be open to all things piano. It will venture beyond solo classical music recitals and masterclasses to include jazz and contemporary, or interesting combinations involving piano: perhaps Piano+Voice, Piano+Violin or even Piano+Multimedia.

Piano+ will develop new ideas and projects over the years to come, starting with the launch of an international concert series at the City Recital Hall in Sydney and the Elisabeth Murdoch Hall at the Melbourne Recital Centre in 2024. Brisbane will also experience Piano+Recitals in the inaugural year, with other capital cities to follow in subsequent years.

Piano+Education will present interactive programs in partnership with key learning institutions. The 2024 Autumn Piano School will create an intensive course located in a picturesque regional setting, giving students of the piano, from youngsters to adults, an immersive and memorable experience.

Piano+ is for you, wherever you live in Australia. In 2024 a membership program will be launched so you can always stay up to date with our activities and enjoy being part of the Piano+ trajectory from the start.

Piano+YOU!