

OPEN ACADEMY RISING STARS & CONSERVATORIUM HIGH SCHOOL
PERFORMANCE PLATFORM
A PROFESSIONAL MUSIC PROGRAM FOR PRE-TERTIARY MUSICIANS

Saturday 31st October 2026

The Rising Stars at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music is a program for pre-tertiary lovers of music. Here at the Sydney Conservatorium, our focus is on educating young musicians for a profession in music and a lifetime of musical appreciation. We aim to educate and develop inspiring artists who will bring enrichment to the listening audience.

The Rising Stars is a dynamic performance and education-based music program supported by the Conservatorium faculty. The Rising Stars strives to identify and accelerate talent from an early age with an aim to establish a constructive foundation for a lifetime of musical enrichment and enjoyment.

Individual instrumental lessons, group music skills classes, and regular performance opportunities are the basis of the Rising Stars program. These components facilitate our students to become well-educated and confident musicians.

To provide opportunities for steady development there are three categories starting with the
Foundation program, developing to the Emerging program, and culminating in the demanding Premier Rising Stars. Chamber music and composition classes are also offered as crucial scholastic electives, accelerating learning and personal relationships.

The Rising Stars program is a 14-week semester, with 2 semesters each year and entry is by audition. For more information, please refer to the Rising Stars web page.
www.openacademy.sydney.edu.au

RISING STARS CONCERT CALENDAR

Semester 2, 2026
31 October
7, 14, 21 November

CONSERVATORIUM OPEN ACADEMY RISING STARS - CONTACTS

Rising Stars Artistic Advisor	Tony Lee	tonydongyi.lee@sydney.edu.au
Music Skills Coordinator	Nicholas Ng	nicholas.ng@sydney.edu.au
Program Officer	Ben Haire	ben.haire@sydney.edu.au
Open Academy Manager	Marcus Hodgson	marcus.hodgson@sydney.edu.au
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11am – Recital Hall East, Level 1
Unaccompanied Concert

James Han
Double Bass, 12 years

Francois Rabbath - Iberique Peninsulaire

Lucas Zhang
Piano, 12 years

Franz Liszt - Liebestraum No 3 in A-flat major S.541

George Shen
Piano, 10 years
les 9, MS10

Sergei Prokofiev – Prelude No 7 in C-Major, Op 12
Cécile Chaminade - Étude Humoristique in F-sharp minor Op 138

Mia Reeve
Piano, 11 years

Claude Debussy - Children's Corner L.113
I. Gradus ad Parnassum
Emil von Sauer – Concert Etudes
I. Meinem lieben Freunde dem Marquis Silvio della Valle di Casanova
III. à Madame Sophie Hanslick

Kingsley Cheung
Piano, 13 years

Frédéric Chopin – Polonaise Op 26 No 1

Benjamin Jiao
Guitar, 16 years
les 9, MS10

Matteo Carcassi - Etude No 14 in D-major Op 60

Oliver Gao
Violin, 16 years

Henryk Wieniawski - Caprice Op 10 No 7 "La cadenza"

Zoe Cheng
Piano, 12 years

Sergei Bortkiewicz – 3 Pieces Op.6
I. Prelude

Arensky Trio

Anton Arensky - Piano Trio No 1 Op 32
I. Allegro moderato

Terrence Xie
Piano, 16 years

Gabrielle Wikstrom
Violin, 14 years

Donglin Li
Cello, 14 years

The filming or recording of concerts is strictly prohibited.

11am – Recital Hall West, Level 1
Hye-Lim Lee – Associate Artist

Yueting Luna Ji
Violin, 13 years

Camille Saint-Saëns - Violin Concerto No.3 Op.61
I. Allegro non troppo

James Brunsdon
French Horn, 14 years

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – Concerto No 2 K417
I. Allegro maestoso

Julie Zhu
Viola, 15 years

Johannes Brahms - Viola Sonata E-flat major
I. Allegro amabile
II. Allegro appassionato

Juliet Brunsdon
Bassoon, 16 years

Georg Philipp Telemann – Sonata in F minor TWV 41:F1
I. Triste, III. Andante, IV. Vivace

Andy Wang
Violin, 15 years

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – Adagio K.261

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2pm – Recital Hall East, Level 1
Young Kwon Choi – Associate Artist

DJO Vivo

Robert Schumann - Märchenerzählungen (Fairy Tales) Op.132
I. Lebhaft, nicht zu schnell
II. Lebhaft und sehr markiert
III. Ruhiges Tempo, mit zartem Ausdruck

David Kim
Piano, 16 years

Jiashan Wang
Viola, 15 years

Oliver Gao
Clarinet, 16 years

Nathan Wang
Alto Saxophone, 12 years

Alexander Glazunov – Concerto for Alto Saxophone Op.109

Jiashan Wang
Viola, 15 years

Rebecca Clarke – Sonata G Minor
III. Adagio – Allegro

Shuichi Madina
Piano, 17 years

Franz Schubert – Drei Klavierstücke D.946
I. Allegro assai
Dmitry Kabalevsky – Rondo Op.59

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3pm – Recital Hall West, Level 1
Paul Cheung – Associate Artist

Monique Neal
Violin, 13 years

Max Bruch – Violin Concerto Op.26 No.1
I. Allegro moderato
II. Adagio

Irene Hu
Violin, 12 years

Camille Saint-Saëns - Violin Concerto Op 61 No 3
I. Allegro non troppo

Alexander Liu
Piano, 12 years

Frédéric Chopin – Nocturne Op 9 No.3

Ivan Shu
Viola, 11 years

Henri Casedesus - Concerto in the style of J.C. Bach in C minor
II. Adagio molto espressivo

Aiden Li
Piano, 12 years

Sergei Rachmaninoff – Etudes-Tableaux Op 33
VII. Moderato

Allen Wang
Violin, 12 years

Pablo de Sarasate - Zigeunerweisen Op.20

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HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?
Our program officer, Ben Haire – ben.haire@sydney.edu.au, is contactable at the Sydney Conservatorium during the week from Tuesday-Friday. If you have any questions regarding our programs, please don't hesitate to get in touch!

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BENNETT SO WINS 2026 STEINWAY GALLERIES AUSTRALIA YOUTH PIANO COMPETITION

Rising Star Bennett So (Piano), student of James Guan, has won First Prize at the 2026 Steinway Galleries Australia Youth Piano Competition, held in Melbourne on October 17. Competing in a pool of 6 finalists in the 12-17 year age group, including several fellow Rising Stars students, Bennett was awarded the top prize for his program.

CONGRATULATIONS BENNETT AND JAMES GUAN!

JULIUS STERN INSTITUTE TOUR PROPOSAL – STUDY, PERFORM, AND EXPLORE BERLIN!

Rising Stars, through the efforts of Artistic Advisor, Tony Lee, has an exciting opportunity to visit the University of the Arts Berlin (UdK), one of Europe's leading arts universities, renowned for producing musical stars. Through its pre-tertiary department, Julius Stern Institute (JSI), students could enjoy specialist lessons with distinguished professors, chamber music collaborations, perform in a major concert, and visit cultural sites in Berlin.

We are currently gauging interest and an expression of interest has been emailed to parents and teachers; please share your feedback by replying to Tony and Ben.

ST JAMES CHURCH LUNCHBREAK CONCERT

On Wednesday 25th November at 115pm, the Rising Stars have been invited to curate a concert at the St James Church. Come along and support them! https://sjks.org.au/event/lunchtime-concert-sydney-conservatorium-open-academy-rising-stars/

YSAŸE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

The YSAŸE Rising Stars Competition, Belgium (2027) is open to young musicians aged 13 and under, with sections for violin, cello, guitar, piano and harp. The competition aims to discover, encourage, and celebrate the next generation of talented musicians from around the world. Application deadline is Dec 15, 2026 and the live finals round will be in May, 2027.
For competition rules and further information, please visit: https://www.ysaye-competition.com/rules

RISING STARS EXAMS

Students and teachers are reminded that all students must successfully pass an end of year exam to continue in the Rising Stars program in 2027. Information for your exam is contained in the table below. If you are unsure of which program you are in, please contact ben.haire@sydney.edu.au for more information. Composition students will be asked to submit a body of work for assessment by an independent panel and Organists will be assessed in the end of year Organ concert on November 21 at 11am.

	Brass	**Piano**	**Strings**	**Woodwind**
Date	Friday 13th November from 4pm	Saturday 28th (RHW) and Sunday 29th November (RHW)	Saturday 28th (RHE) and Sunday 29th November (RHE)	Thursday 12th November from 4-7pm
Foundation	As below	One solo Etude and ONE other solo piece, 10 minutes max	As below	As below
Premier, Emerging, CHSAPP	Two contrasting works, 10 minutes max	One solo Etude and TWO other solo pieces, 15 minutes max	One study and one piece (10 minutes max)	1 etude and 1 piece (10 min max) OR 2 contrasting pieces (10 mins max)

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST AND NEVER MISS A CONCERT!

If you'd like to take a sneak peek at our weekly concert programs, join our e-mailing list to receive the programs a day in advance – visit our website, **openacademy.sydney.edu.au/enrol/mail**. The program is also uploaded to our Facebook page on Fridays, so make sure to find **'Open Academy at the Con'** on Facebook, check in and give us a like!

SUPPORT A RISING STAR – NEW DONATION LINK!

Financial assistance for Rising Stars is limited, and fees for a year of $7900 or $280 a week can be a challenge for parents to find. We are very grateful to our present sponsors, but there are opportunities for others to help our talented students. Any amount, large or small, can make an enormous difference to a young player's musical future. If you would like to make a contribution, please CLICK HERE to go to our new web portal and select Rising Stars or CLICK HERE or to download the Rising Stars Gift form.

We are grateful to our major supporters for 2026:
Victor Cromack and Melba Alma Harris Cromack Memorial Scholarship
Kathleen Holmes McCrea Pianoforte Scholarship
Richard & Doreen Wilson Organ Scholarship fund
Professor Jack C Richards

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