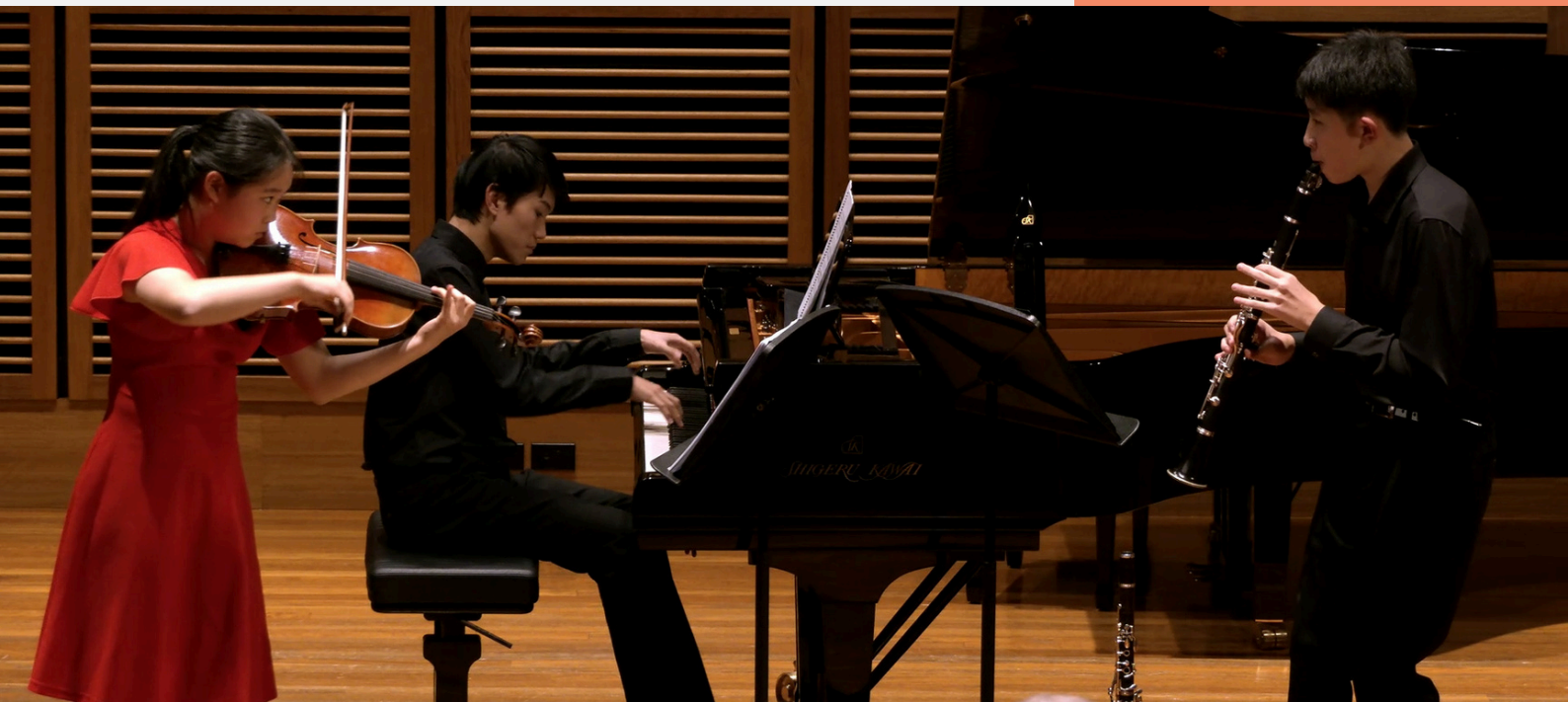


RISING STARS GALA CONCERT

RECITAL HALL WEST
7PM, THURSDAY 25 JUNE 2026



We acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional owners of the land on which we meet; the Gadigal of the Eora Nation. It is upon their ancestral lands that the University of Sydney is built.

As we share our own knowledge, teaching, learning and research practices within this university, may we also pay respect to the knowledge embedded forever within the Aboriginal Custodianship of Country.

THE RISING STARS PROGRAM

Rising Stars is a dynamic music education program that nurtures gifted school-aged instrumentalists and composers. Through expert tuition, academic development, and weekly public performances, it aims to help young music students grow both as artists and individuals.

Rising Stars has two streams, Classical and Jazz. Both streams provide individual tuition, development of wider music skills and, importantly, regular opportunities for concert performance. This provides students with invaluable experience in rehearsal techniques, pre-performance preparation, concert etiquette and stage presentation, and helps students become familiar with the concert 'backstage experience'.

The program was developed by a small group of leading academics from the Conservatorium, at the instigation of the then Dean Kim Walker. That group also included renowned music educator Joy Lee who went on to become the program's Artistic Mentor from 2009. Since 2024 the program's Artistic Advisor for the Classical stream has been Tony Lee.

PROGRAM

FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN

Ballade No. 3
in A Flat major Op. 47
Cheryl Zhang, piano

ERICH WOLFGANG KORNGOLD

Violin Concerto Op.35
I. Moderato nobile
Christina Bhang , violin

GASPAR CASSADÓ

Requiebros
Aaron Dong, cello

MAURICE RAVEL

Une Barque sur l'océan
David Kim, piano

OTAR TAKTAKISHVILI

Toccata
David Kim, piano

INTERVAL

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

Sonata No. 7 in C minor Op 30 No. 2
I. Allegro con brio
Laura Dowdeswell, violin

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK

Violin Concerto in A minor Op.53
I. Allegro ma non troppo
Sharon Zhao, violin

ALFRED UHL

Kleines Konzert for Clarinet, Viola, and Piano
Oliver Gao, clarinet, Jiashan Wang, viola, David Kim, Piano

PERFORMERS

Christina Bhang (violin) 14 years

Aaron Dong (cello) 12 years

Oliver Gao (clarinet) 15 years

David Kim (piano) 16 years

Jiashan Wang (viola) 15 years

Cheryl Zhang (piano) 13 years

Sharon Zhao (violin) 17 years

Lara Dowdeswell (violin) - alumni

Hye-lim Lee - Associate Artist

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Professor Anna Reid	Dean and Head of School
Tony Lee	Rising Stars Artistic Advisor
Dr Nicholas Ng	Rising Stars Music Skills Co-ordinator
Ben Haire	Rising Stars Program Officer
Marcus Hodgson	Open Academy Manager
Kirsty McCahon	Strategic Relations Manager
Caitlin Brass	Special Events Co-ordinator
Matthew Young	Associate Director of Development, Arts and Culture
Swan Feix	Development Associate
Vanessa Agius	Front of House Manager

Our heartfelt thanks goes to the community of donors who support our Rising Stars program, with special mention to the Patricia H. Reid Endowment supporting bursaries to increase equity and access to high quality music education at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

If you are interested in supporting the future of the Rising Stars program, we welcome you to start a conversation with Matthew Young, Associate Director of Development and Philanthropy, who can be contacted at matthew.r.young@sydney.edu.au or +61 422 797 934.