Performers Biographies

Professor Kurt Sassmannshaus Violin faculty member at the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music (CCM). Founder, Artistic Director and President of the Great Wall International Music Academy (GWIMA), Starling Project Foundation and Starling Chamber Orchestra.

Professor Matthias Buchholz Viola faculty member at the Cologne University of Music in Germany. Prof. Buchholz is a CCM alumnus and has taught at GWIMA for many summers.

Professor Yehuda Hanani Cello faculty member at CCM and taught at GWIMA in the summer of 2009.

Professor Piotr Milewski Violin faculty member at CCM and has taught at GWIMA since 2005.

Professor William Grubb Cello faculty member at CCM. Prof. Grubb is the cellist of Polygon Trio and has taught at GWIMA for many summers.

Professor Frank Weinstock Piano faculty member and Associate Dean at CCM. Prof. Weinstock is the pianist of Polygon Trio and has taught at GWIMA for many summers.

Haeri Suh Doctor of Musical Arts Candidate in Piano Performance at CCM. Ms. Suh is currently studying with Prof. James Tocco and has served on the GWIMA artist faculty since 2008.

Yabing Tan Performance Certificate Candidate in Violin Performance at CCM. Yabing is currently studying with Prof. Kurt Sassmannshaus and won the first prize in GWIMA Violin Concerto Competition in 2008.

Ying Zhang Performance Certificate Candidate in Violin Performance at CCM. Ying is currently studying with Prof. Kurt Sassmannshaus and has won the first prize in GWIMA Violin Concerto Competition in 2009.

Christoph Sassmannshaus Bachelor of Music Candidate in Cello Performance at CCM. Christoph is currently studying with Prof. William Grubb and has attended GWIMA in the summer of 2005, 2006, and 2007. He is a chamber faculty at the Cincinnati Starling String Project.

Stephen Goist Bachelor of Music Candidate in Viola Performance at CCM. Stephen is currently studying with Prof. Catharine Carroll and Prof. Masao Kawasaki.

Yang Liu Bachelor of Music Candidate in Violin Performance at CCM. Yang is currently studying with Prof. Kurt Sassmannshaus and has attended GWIMA in the summer of 2007, 2008, and 2009.

Haoli Lin Performance Certificate Candidate in Violin Performance at CCM. Haoli is currently studying with Prof. Kurt Sassmannshaus and has attended GWIMA in the summer of 2007 and 2008.
PROGRAM

FROM Duo for violin and viola in G Major, K 423 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

I. Allegro
Kurt Sassmannshaus, violin
Mattias Buchholz, viola

FROM Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major, BWV 1007 Johann Sebastian Bach

II. Allemande
IV. Sarabande
VI. Gigue
Yehuda Hanani, cello

FROM Sonata No. 1 in G Major, Op. 78 Johannes Brahms

I. Allegro ma non troppo
Piotr Milewski, violin
Haeri Suh, piano

FROM String Quartet No. 11 in F Minor, Ludwig van Beethoven Op. 95 (“Serioso”)

I. Allegro con brio
Yabing Tan, violin
Yang Liu, violin
Stephen Goist, viola
Christoph Sassmannshaus, cello

Solo Sonata No. 3 (“Ballade”) Eugene Ysayë

Haoli Lin, violin

Polonaise brilliante in A Major, Op. 21 Henryk Wieniawski

Yang Liu, violin
Haeri Suh, piano

Navarra Pablo de Sarasate

Yabing Tan, violin
Ying Zhang, violin
Haeri Suh, piano

FROM Piano Quintet in E♭ Major, Op. 44 Robert Schumann

1. Allegro brilliante
Kurt Sassmannshaus, violin
Piotr Milewski, violin
Matthias Buchholz, viola
William Grubb, cello
Haeri Suh, piano

– INTERMISSION –

Piano Quartet in G Minor, Op. 25 Johannes Brahms

I. Allegro
II. Intermezzo: Allegro ma non troppo
III. Andante con moto
IV. Rondo alla Zingarese
Kurt Sassmannshaus, violin
Matthias Buchholz, viola
William Grubb, cello
Frank Weinstock, piano

Held in Beijing, China and now in its sixth season, The Great Wall International Music Academy (GWIMA) is a one month long classical music education institute for gifted string players age 10 to 25 from China, the United States, Europe and around the world. Founded by the German-born violin pedagogue Kurt Sassmannshaus and the Starling Project Foundation in 2005, GWIMA brings together the current and future generation of outstanding string soloists and teachers for one month long of musical training, performance and cultural exchange. Acclaimed by the Cincinnati Enquirer as “the first festival of its kind to bring together the best of Western and Chinese musicians”. During the Academy month, 80 selected young string players from around the world stay in the Grand Epoch City resort near Beijing (http://english.grand-epoch-city.com). They receive private lessons, master classes, chamber music coaching by world-renowned faculty members from the world’s top conservatories. Private lessons are taught in the morning; the afternoon is set aside for chamber music coachings and master classes. All classes are conducted in English and Chinese. The evenings are filled with faculty and student concerts. Meanwhile, there are various performance opportunities for the students, faculty and guest artists in a series of high profile concerts in Beijing, sharing the joy of classic music with large audiences in prestigious concert halls. “[This summer academy] was the most professional…There was no doubt that [it] was the strongest and had the highest level…” said The Little Performer Magazine, China and “[The students] study, listen to music and perform. They are…very determined…Everything is perfectly organized.” said La Stampa, Rome.