
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PIANO AWARD

5-10 OCTOBER 2026



Australia's next generation
of world-class pianists

Acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners

The Australian National Piano Award acknowledges the Yorta Yorta Peoples of the land which now comprises Greater Shepparton.

We pay respect to their tribal Elders, we celebrate their continuing culture and we acknowledge the memory of their ancestors.

First Prize recipients

- 2024** **Joshua Han** from New South Wales
- 2022** **Alex Zhang** from New South Wales
- 2018** **Oliver She** from Queensland
- 2016** **Tony Lee** from New South Wales
- 2014** **Alex Raineri** from Queensland & Victoria
- 2012** **Daniel de Borah** from Victoria
- 2010** **Jocelyn Ho** from New South Wales
- 2008** **Jayson Gillham** from Queensland
- 2006** **Amir Farid** from Victoria
- 2004** **Matthew Kam** from Victoria

- 2002** **Anna Carson** from Queensland & **Richard Jackson** from Victoria
- 2000** **Kristian Chong** from Victoria & **Kenji Fujimura** from Victoria
- 1998** **Eidit Golder** from Victoria
- 1996** **Lance Coburn** from Queensland & **Mark Kruger** from Queensland
- 1994** **Clemens Leske Junior** from South Australia
- 1992** **Catherine Davis** from New South Wales & **Mark McGee** from Victoria

The 2020 Award was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Welcome to the 2026 Award

The Australian National Piano Award is a week-long showcase of some of Australia's most gifted emerging classical pianists.

This year the Award received more applications than ever before, following a move to online applications and the quality matched the record numbers.

Fourteen finalists have been selected to compete for more than \$75,000 in prize money, performing a week of solo recitals at Riverlinks Eastbank in Shepparton from 5 to 10 October 2026.

Held every two years, the Award gives young Australian pianists the chance to perform classical repertoire and build their reputation as professional artists.

In the lead-up to the grand final and prize presentation, three adjudicators will listen closely and assess every performance, while audiences can vote for their favourite pianist in The Rotary Club of Shepparton People's Choice Prize.

The order of solo recital performances was drawn by Mayor Councillor Shane Sali in August 2026 and announced at a special function to welcome the Award finalists and adjudicators to Shepparton and the Goulburn Valley.

A message from our Patron-in-Chief



Music is as rewarding as it is enriching.

Rewarding because of the joy it brings to those who practise it, and enriching because of the ability to share that feeling with others.

For more than three decades, the Australian National Piano Award has done much to enable that joy – by fostering the talent of emerging performers and providing an opportunity for audiences to experience new talented pianists.

The 2026 Australian National Piano Award continues this proud tradition.

To reach the finals is a significant achievement, representing countless hours of disciplined practice, as well as passionate performance.

As Patron-in-Chief, I wish the best of luck to this year's performers and express my sincere thanks to all those who make this event possible.

Her Excellency, Professor the Honourable
Margaret Gardner AC
Governor of Victoria
Award Patron-in-Chief

A message from our Principal Partner



On behalf of Greater Shepparton City Council, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Greater Shepparton for the 2026 Australian National Piano Award.

Every two years, this event brings a special energy to our region, with the nation's most gifted emerging pianists sharing their creativity, passion and connection. We are pleased to welcome competitors, adjudicators, supporters and visitors to Greater Shepparton for this celebrated occasion.

The Australian National Piano Award is an incredible opportunity for outstanding young musicians to share their talent and we are proud that Greater Shepparton provides the setting for these memorable experiences.

As you spend time in our region, I encourage you to embrace everything that makes Greater Shepparton unique. From our lively dining scene and vibrant cultural attractions to the natural beauty of our river landscapes, there is plenty to discover beyond the concert hall.

Whether you visit Shepparton Art Museum (SAM), explore our Aboriginal Street Art Trail, experience Museum of Vehicle Evolution (MOVE), or simply enjoy a walk along one of our many paths and trails, I hope you find time to connect with the people, places and stories that shape our community.

Events such as the Australian National Piano Award enrich our region and demonstrate the important role the arts play in bringing people together. We are grateful to everyone who contributes to the success of this remarkable event and to the many volunteers, organisers and supporters who make it possible.

To the competitors, congratulations on earning your place in this year's Award. Reaching this stage reflects an extraordinary level of talent, perseverance and commitment. I wish you all the very best for the performances ahead.

Enjoy your time in Greater Shepparton, and I hope your experience here is both rewarding and memorable.

Councillor Geoff Akers

Mayor

Greater Shepparton City Council

A message from our President



2026 marks the seventeenth biennial presentation of the Award and 34 years since the first Award in 1992.

Something significant has happened this year. Following our move to online applications, the Award received more applications than ever before, and the quality matched the quantity. Our adjudicators were impressed by what they heard.

The Award remains a vital event in Australia's national classical music calendar, valued for its artistic standard, fairness of adjudication and smoothness of operation. It gives Australia's emerging professional pianists a genuine challenge, brings high-level artistic endeavour to a regional centre, and promotes piano music to the wider community.

This October also brings something rare: the Archibald Prize 2026, showing at the Shepparton Art Museum (SAM), the only Victorian venue to host the national tour of the exhibition. World-class piano and celebrated portraiture, in the same week, in the same city.

We owe a great deal to our late Award co-founders, Neil Werner OAM, Erna Werner and Max Cooke OAM, whose vision helped establish the tradition we build on today. We're proudly supported by our Board, Associates, partners and volunteers, and are grateful to all who make it possible.

On behalf of the Board, thank you to everyone who supports the Award, and welcome to the 2026 Award.

Darryl G. Coote

President of the Board

Award co-founder

Award co-designer

A message from our Artistic Director



For over 30 years now, the Award has held a special place within Australia's piano community, providing our best and brightest emerging pianistic talents with a platform to showcase not just a brilliant technique, but also a depth of musicianship across a range of the most demanding repertoire in the pianistic canon.

Targeting 21 to 35 year olds, the Award attracts young pianists who have already developed a high degree of both technical mastery and musical maturity, resulting in a week of thoughtful and profound music making, not always encountered in the world of competitions.

Our 2026 Award finalists are a particularly accomplished group, bringing a wealth of talent and experience which has seen many of them already achieve notable success in both national and international arenas. This Award week promises a feast of pianistic excellence and unforgettable music making, whilst introducing us to the pianistic giants of tomorrow.

The list of previous Award winners confirms this, with so many having gone on to enjoy distinguished pianistic careers, to both national and international acclaim.

The ongoing success of the Award is of course due in no small part to our loyal sponsors and wonderful volunteers, as well as to the countless music lovers who have joined us in Shepparton over the years to share in this inspiring biennial event.

I hope you enjoy the week ahead.

Wendy Lorenz

Award Artistic Director

Award adjudication

Prior to selecting and announcing the Award finalists, adjudicators review and assess a range of audition recordings supplied by applicants from across Australia.

During their week in Shepparton, each Award finalist presents two public solo recitals, each up to 45 minutes, drawn from a breadth of repertoire groups, which include:

- Baroque music up to and including Johann Sebastian Bach
- Classical music after Bach, including the music of Ludwig van Beethoven and Franz Schubert
- Romantic music from the 19th century up to and including 1900, excluding the music of Beethoven and Schubert
- French Impressionist music and other music composed from 1901 to 1950
- Music composed from 1951 onwards
- An Australian work

During the Award week, adjudicators consider:

- the range of technical mastery displayed
- the performance style and characteristics
- understanding of the works' national, historic and cultural context
- consistency of performance across the chosen repertoire

Award adjudicators select five performers to play in the semi final and three artists to compete in the grand final recital.

Following the grand final solo recitals, adjudicators confirm and announce the Award recipients across three main prizes and a range of special prizes.

Award Artistic Director Wendy Lorenz advises the Board on repertoire and adjudication procedures, but does not take part in selecting finalists or in adjudicating performances during the Award week.

Award adjudicators also provide finalists with personal feedback on their performances, along with valuable advice for future professional development.

2026 Award adjudicators

The 2026 Award adjudicators bring a combined wealth of global concert experience, an interest in developing young artists and expertise in adjudication and education.

Adjudicators for the 2026 Award are:

- Associate Professor Rae de Lisle MNZM
- Amir Farid
- Professor Timothy Steeves

Associate Professor Rae de Lisle MNZM

New Zealand



Formerly Head of Piano at the University of Auckland, Rae de Lisle is one of New Zealand's most sought-after piano teachers. She received an Excellence in Teaching Award from the University of Auckland and the Marie Vandewart Memorial Award in 2011, and was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to music in 2015.

Many of Rae's former students have gone on to international success, including receiving First Prizes at the Sydney International Piano Competition, the Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition, the Bradshaw & Buono International Piano Competition, the Perrenoud Foundation International Piano Competition and the Lee University International Piano Competition.

Rae trained for eight years in England with Maria Curcio, Cyril Smith and Brigitte Wild, leading to an international career as soloist and chamber musician. She played many concertos with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, the Auckland Philharmonia and Orchestra Wellington. Her recordings include *Morgen: Songs for Cello* with cellist Andrew Joyce and *Portrait with Piano*, featuring music by Jenny McLeod.

Rae's PhD on the musicians' injury focal dystonia was nominated for the Best Thesis Award at the University of Auckland. Further research led to new instrumental retraining concepts, with keynote speeches and numerous presentations at global conferences. She has since developed the online course *Exploring Piano Technique* and published *Fit 4 Piano* and *Fit 4 Piano Etudes*, the latter commissioned by Creative New Zealand.

Rae adjudicated the 2024 Award and has served on many other international juries.

Amir Farid

Australia and America



Amir Farid is an Iranian-Australian pianist regarded as one of the most versatile and distinguished musicians of his generation. First Prize recipient of the 2006 Award, he has earned a reputation as a highly creative and thoughtful performer with a wide-ranging global career.

Amir has performed concertos with major ensembles including the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra and West Australian Symphony Orchestra, working with conductors such as Christopher Hogwood, Oleg Caetani and Benjamin Northey. Career highlights include Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 before a 13,000-strong audience at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl, and The Mozart Dances with the Mark Morris Dance Group and West Australian Symphony Orchestra at the 2015 Perth Festival.

As a recitalist, Amir has performed at Carnegie Hall, St Martin in the Fields and the Mostly Mozart Festival, and across Germany, Switzerland, New Zealand, China and Canada. He is the pianist of the Benaud Trio and a member of the Exponential Ensemble in New York, and frequently collaborates with artists including Ian Bostridge, Arabella Steinbacher and Siobhan Stagg.

Amir has released multiple albums with Move Records, ABC Classics and Melba Recordings, several nominated for Australian Independent Music Awards and is a featured artist in the Steinway & Sons Spirio catalogue.

Professor Timothy Steeves

Canada and America



Canadian pianist Timothy Steeves is widely recognised for his dynamic artistry, both as a soloist and as one half of Duo Concertante, with violinist Nancy Dahn. Over almost three decades, Duo Concertante has commissioned more than seventy new works, and their performances and recordings have earned praise from Gramophone and The Strad for their technical brilliance and musical conviction.

Timothy and Nancy co-founded the Tuckamore Chamber Music Festival in 2000, bringing together emerging musicians with world-class artists for two weeks of intensive learning. He is also a highly regarded teacher, having led hundreds of masterclasses and workshops across Canada.

As a soloist, Timothy released a recording of Haydn sonatas on Marquis Classics. With Duo Concertante, he has produced fifteen commercial recordings, including the complete Beethoven sonatas, Schubert's complete violin-and-piano works and Bach's Six Sonatas for Violin and Keyboard, on labels including ATMA, Delphian, PARMA and Centrediscs.

Timothy maintains an active international schedule, appearing at Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, the National Arts Centre (Ottawa), Forbidden City Concert Hall and Roy Thomson Hall. Originally from Saskatoon, he studied at the University of Western Ontario and trained in Germany at the Hannover and Freiburg music academies. In 2016 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and in 2021 he received the John Lewis Paton Distinguished Professor title from Memorial University where he taught from 1996 to 2026.

2026 Award schedule

Solo recitals

Recital 1

1pm & 7.30pm Monday, 5 October 2026

1pm & 7.30pm Tuesday, 6 October 2026

Recital 2

1pm & 7.30pm Wednesday, 7 October 2026

1pm & 7.30pm Thursday, 8 October 2026

Semi final

12pm Friday, 9 October 2026

Grand final and prize presentation

7pm Saturday, 10 October 2026

Venue

Riverlinks Eastbank
70 Welsford Street, Shepparton
03 5832 9511
boxoffice@riverlinksvenues.com.au
riverlinksvenues.com.au

Live broadcast and recording

3MBS Fine Music Melbourne will record the Award semi final and grand final.

Repertoires

Award finalist repertoires will be available at the venue for each of the recitals.

Audience guidelines

Audiences should acknowledge that the Award is a competition and respectfully remain quiet throughout all performances during the solo recitals, semi final and grand final. Applause is welcomed after each work.

Patrons will not be admitted into the auditorium during the performances and all pagers, alarms, mobiles and other digital devices must be turned off.

During performances, Award finalists may not be photographed or recorded, other than by contractors engaged and approved by the Award.

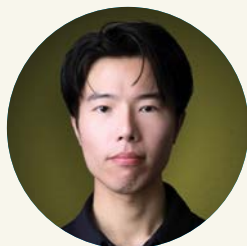
2026 Award finalists



Adam Adov



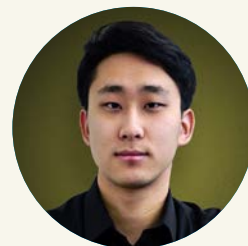
Alyssa Chalmers



Kane Chang



Joy Chen



Kevin Chow



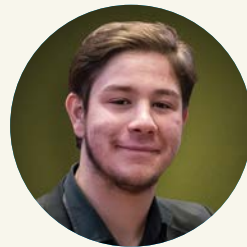
Adam McMillan



Mengzhen Mu



Dono Ng



Simón Pazos Quintana



Thong Truong



Reuben Tsang



Oscar Wong



Silvina Wong



Liam Wooding

Adam Adov 23 years old from New South Wales



Adam Adov is currently pursuing a Master of Music in Piano Performance at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, where he studies with Jon Kimura Parker. Born in Sydney, he previously completed his studies with Michael Lewin at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee.

From the age of ten, Adam studied with Dr Natalya Andreeva in the Sydney Conservatorium of Music's Rising Stars program, receiving both the Associate of Music, Australia (AMusA) diploma in 2015 and the Licentiate of Music, Australia (LMusA) diploma with distinction in 2019. He has also studied in Moscow with Mikhail Petukhov.

Adam has received numerous competition prizes, including First Prize at the Eastern Connecticut Concerto Competition, the London International Concerto Competition, the Virtuoso International Music Awards, the Virtuoso European Awards and the New York International Music Competition. He also received the Special Liszt Prize at the Carles & Sofia International Piano Competition and Second Prize at the Badura-Skoda International Piano Competition. In 2024, he received First Prize at the Boston Conservatory Concerto Competition and performed with the Boston Conservatory Orchestra at Jordan Hall.

In 2026, Adam appeared as a soloist in Italy and Poland and performed with the London City Philharmonic Orchestra under Olsi Qinami in the United Kingdom. He has also been featured on Fine Music FM National Radio in Australia and appeared in a Medici.tv documentary on the XV International Tchaikovsky Competition.

Repertoire

Johann Sebastian Bach

Well-tempered Clavier, Book I

(xx) Prelude and Fugue in A minor, BWV 865

Mily Balakirev

Islamey: Oriental Fantasy

Ludwig van Beethoven

Sonata in A flat major, Op 110

(i) Moderato cantabile molto espressivo

(ii) Allegro molto

(iii) Adagio ma non troppo – Fuga: Allegro
ma non troppo

George Frideric Handel arranged Wilhelm Kempff

Minuet in G minor

Franz Liszt

Années de pèlerinage II, S 161

(vii) Après une lecture du Dante: Fantasia
quasi sonata

Grandes Études de Paganini, No 6

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Études-Tableaux, Op 33 No 3 in C minor

Domenico Scarlatti

Sonata in F minor, K 466

Sonata in D minor, K 1

Carl Vine

Sonata No 2

(i) Crotchet = 94

Alyssa Chalmers 22 years old from New South Wales



Alyssa Chalmers is completing a Master of Music Studies (Piano Performance) at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where she studies with Dr Scott Davie. A graduate of the Conservatorium High School, she completed her Bachelor of Music (Piano Performance) with First Class Honours at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in 2025. Her honours thesis examined the mazurkas of Frédéric Chopin.

During her studies, Alyssa received the Bruce A. Pontin Memorial Scholarship (2022), the University of Sydney Early Offer Year 12 Scholarship (2022), the University of Sydney Academic Merit Prize (2023) and was twice named to the Dean's List of Academic Excellence.

Alyssa has performed extensively throughout Sydney as both a soloist and chamber musician, appearing at the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall, City Recital Hall and Verbrugghen Hall. In 2020, she was invited to present a solo recital for Her Excellency Margaret Beazley at Government House Sydney.

Alyssa's competition accolades include First Prize at the 2024 Sydney Eisteddfod Chamber Music Competition, a finalist placing at the 2022 Osaka International Music Competition, Third Prize at the 2025 Marilyn Meier Chopin Award and finalist placings at the Sydney Conservatorium Concerto Competition in 2024 and 2025.

Repertoire

Johann Sebastian Bach

Well-tempered Clavier, Book I

(xx) Prelude and Fugue in A minor, BWV 865

Toccatà in C minor, BWV 911

Ludwig van Beethoven

Sonata in A flat major, Op 110

(i) Moderato cantabile molto espressivo

(ii) Allegro molto

(iii) Adagio ma non troppo – Fuga: Allegro
ma non troppo

Frédéric Chopin

Sonata No 2 in B flat minor, Op 35

(i) Grave – Doppio movimento

(ii) Scherzo

(iii) Marche funèbre: Lento

(iv) Finale: Presto

Percy Grainger

Colonial Song

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Étude-Tableau in E flat minor, Op 39 No 5

Maurice Ravel

Miroirs

(iii) Une barque sur l'océan

Alexander Scriabin

Sonata No 4 in F sharp major, Op 30

(i) Andante

(ii) Prestissimo volando

Johann Strauss II arranged Alfred Grünfeld

Soirée de Vienne, Op 56

Kane Chang 31 years old from Victoria



Kane Chang began his piano studies in China with Liu Yang before relocating to Melbourne, where he studied with Glenn Riddle. In 2016, he gave his concerto debut performing Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 with the New Goldberg Orchestra.

Kane completed his Bachelor of Music with Honours at the University of Melbourne in 2020 before joining the Australian National Academy of Music, where he studied with Timothy Young. During his time at the Australian National Academy of Music, he participated in the ANAM Set Festival and premiered *Fragility and Sonorousness*, composed by Bruce Crossman.

In 2022, Kane received the Frances Hall Scholarship to study at the Manhattan School of Music with Alexandre Moutouzkine. He is currently a Doctor of Musical Arts student at the University of Washington in Seattle, studying with Craig Sheppard. He was a semi-finalist in the 2022 Seattle International Piano Competition and received First Prize at the University of Washington Concerto Competition in 2026, performing Schumann's Piano Concerto with the Harmonia Symphony Orchestra.

Across China, Australia and the United States, Kane has performed at venues including the Melbourne Recital Centre, Shanghai Oriental Art Center, New York Lincoln Center and Meany Theater in Seattle.

Repertoire

Johann Sebastian Bach

Die Kunst der Fuge

- (i) Contrapunctus

Ludwig van Beethoven

Sonata in A flat major, Op 110

- (i) Moderato cantabile molto espressivo
- (ii) Allegro molto
- (iii) Adagio ma non troppo – Fuga: Allegro ma non troppo

George Gershwin arranged Percy Grainger

Love Walked In

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Sonata No 9 in D major, K 311

- (i) Allegro con spirito
- (ii) Andantino con espressione
- (iii) Rondeau (Allegro)

Maurice Ravel

Valses nobles et sentimentales

- (i) Modéré – très franc
- (ii) Assez lent – avec une expression intense
- (iii) Modéré
- (iv) Assez animé
- (v) Presque lent – dans un sentiment intime
- (vi) Vif
- (vii) Moins vif
- (viii) Épilogue. Lent

Robert Schumann

Fantasie in C major, Op 17

- (i) Durchaus phantastisch und leidenschaftlich vorzutragen

Charles Trenet arranged Alexis Weissenberg

En avril à Paris

Joy Chen 25 years old from New South Wales



Joy Chen completed her Bachelor of Music (Performance) with Honours at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music under Dr Paul Rickard-Ford, where she participated in the Rising Stars program and received the Licentiate of Music, Australia (LMusA) diploma with Distinction in 2016.

During her studies, Joy received the Myron Kantor Bequest Scholarship, the Henderson Traveller Scholarship and the George Henderson Scholarship. She is currently completing a Graduate Diploma at the New England Conservatory of Music under Meng-Chieh Liu, having previously completed a Master of Music with Academic Honors under Pavel Nersessian and Meng-Chieh Liu.

Joy has received prizes at competitions across Australia, Asia and Europe. Her accolades include First Prize at the 2019 Golden Classical Music Awards International Piano Competition, for which she was invited to perform at Carnegie Hall, Second Prize at the 2022 Sviatoslav Richter International Piano Competition and a Special Prize for best performance of 20th century music at the 2021 International Balys Dvarionas Competition. She also received the 2020 Theme & Variations Foundation Award.

Having participated in festival programs and masterclasses with leading artists including Arie Vardi, Boris Berman, Yoheved Kaplinsky and Dénes Várjon, Joy has developed her artistry across a broad range of international programs. These include the University of Music Franz Liszt Weimar Masterclasses, the XI International Summer Piano Academy Disentis and the PianoTexas International Festival and Academy.

Repertoire

Frédéric Chopin

Three Écossaises, Op 72

- (i) D major, Vivace
- (ii) G major
- (iii) D flat major

Percy Grainger

In Dahomey: Cakewalk Smasher

Joseph Haydn

Piano Sonata in C minor, Hob XVI:20

- (i) Moderato
- (ii) Andante con moto
- (iii) Finale – Allegro

Fritz Kreisler

arranged Sergei Rachmaninoff

Liebesleid

Sergei Prokofiev

Piano Sonata No 6 in A major, Op 82

- (i) Allegro moderato
- (ii) Allegretto
- (iii) Tempo di valzer lentissimo
- (iv) Vivace

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Variations on a theme of Corelli, Op 42

Theme. Andante

- (i) Poco più mosso
- (ii) L'istesso tempo
- (iii) Tempo di Minuetto
- (iv) Andante
- (v) Allegro ma non tanto
- (vi) L'istesso tempo
- (vii) Vivace
- (viii) Adagio misterioso
- (ix) Un poco più mosso
- (x) Allegro scherzando
- (xi) Allegro vivace

(xii) L'istesso tempo

(xiii) Agitato

Intermezzo

(xiv) Andante (come prima) (D flat major)

(xv) L'istesso tempo (D flat major)

(xvi) Allegro vivace

(xvii) Meno mosso

(xviii) Allegro con brio

(xix) Più mosso. Agitato

(xx) Più mosso

Coda. Andante

Franz Schubert

Three Klavierstücke, D 946

- (i) Allegro assai
- (ii) Allegretto
- (iii) Allegro

Carl Vine

Piano Sonata No 1

- (ii) Leggiero e legato

Kevin Chow 29 years old from Victoria



Kevin Chow is currently pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy in Music Performance at the University of Melbourne under Jerry Wong. He holds a Master of Music and a Master of Musical Arts from Yale University, where he received the Outstanding Alumni Award for his final degree recital, and recently completed his Konzertexamen (Doctoral Artist Diploma) with special distinction at the Hochschule für Musik Detmold. His principal mentors have included Alfredo Perl, Boris Berman, Yoon Sen Lee, Boris Slutsky, the late Peter Serkin and Glenn Riddle.

An accomplished concerto soloist, Kevin has performed with leading ensembles worldwide, including the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House, the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Morocco Philharmonic, the Thailand Philharmonic, the Fremantle Symphony Orchestra and the Hagen Symphony Orchestra. He has also appeared as a featured soloist at the Beethoven-Haus in Bonn.

At the 2023 Telekom Beethoven Competition Bonn, Kevin received the audience-voted Beethoven-Haus Prize. He has also received top prizes at the ABC Young Performers Awards, the Maj Lind International Piano Competition in Finland, the Orchestre Philharmonique du Maroc International Piano Competition and the Thailand International Piano Competition.

As a chamber musician, Kevin has collaborated with the Meta4 Quartet and Duo Miow and has appeared at the Australian Festival of Chamber Music.

Repertoire

Ludwig van Beethoven

Sonata in A flat major, Op 110

- (i) Moderato cantabile molto espressivo
- (ii) Allegro molto
- (iii) Adagio ma non troppo – Fuga: Allegro ma non troppo

Claude Debussy

Préludes, Book II

- (vii) La terrasse des audiences du clair de lune
- (viii) Ondine

César Franck

Prélude, Choral et Fugue, M 21

Percy Grainger

Ramble on the Last Love-Duet from Richard Strauss's Der Rosenkavalier

Franz Liszt

Réminiscences de Norma, S 394

Alexander Scriabin

Sonata No 7, Op 64 (White Mass)

- (i) Allegro

Igor Stravinsky

Trois mouvements de Petrouchka

- (i) Danse russe: Allegro giusto
- (ii) Chez Pétrouchka: Moderato
- (iii) La semaine grasse: Con moto – Allegretto – Tempo giusto – Agitato

Adam McMillan 32 years old from Queensland



Adam McMillan is a Brisbane-born, Melbourne-based pianist who performs regularly as a recitalist, chamber musician and concerto soloist. He completed his Bachelor of Music with First Class Honours and a University Medal at the Queensland Conservatorium under Jenni Flemming, where he was a recipient of the Sir Samuel Griffith Scholarship. He subsequently studied at the Australian National Academy of Music with Timothy Young.

Adam has received a number of prizes, including First Prize at the Melbourne Recital Centre Great Romantics Competition, the Queensland Piano Competition and the Musica Viva Chamber Music Prize. From 2018 to 2019, he was a recipient of the Margaret Schofield and Mel and Nina Waters scholarships with Melba Opera Trust.

Performance highlights include duet recitals with Garrick Ohlsson for Musica Viva, Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto with the Bendigo Symphony Orchestra, the Australian Showcase at the Sydney International Piano Competition, the Huon Music Festival, the Canberra International Music Festival and the Australian Piano Duo Festival. Adam's performances have been broadcast on ABC Classic, 3MBS and 4MBS.

Outside of music, Adam has completed a Bachelor of Psychology with Honours at Deakin University and is near completion of a Master of Information Technology at the University of Melbourne. He is also a member of Ensemble CANE alongside flutist Eliza Shephard, saxophonist Niels Bijl and composer and director Christopher Healey.

Repertoire

Johann Sebastian Bach

English Suite No 2 in A minor

- (i) Prélude
- (ii) Allemande
- (v) Bourrée I/II
- (vi) Gigue

Johann Sebastian Bach

arranged Sergei Rachmaninoff

Prelude from Violin Partita No. 3 in E major

Samuel Barber

Nocturne, Op 33

Frédéric Chopin

Barcarolle in F sharp major, Op 60

Claude Debussy

Préludes, Book II

- (v) Bruyères

Kym Alexandra Dillon

Three Two One

Bells Across the Hills

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Piano Sonata No 2 in B flat minor, Op 36

- (i) Allegro agitato
- (ii) Non allegro – Lento
- (iii) Allegro molto

Alexander Scriabin

Piano Sonata No 2 in G sharp minor

- (i) Andante
- (ii) Presto

Franz Schubert

Sonata in A major, D 664

- (i) Allegro moderato
- (ii) Andante
- (iii) Allegro

Earl Wild

Seven Virtuoso Études after Gershwin

- (iii) The Man I Love
- (iv) Embraceable You

Mengzhen Mu 25 years old from New South Wales



Mengzhen Mu completed her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music in piano performance at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music under Dr Bernadette Harvey. She received the Associate of Music, Australia (AMusA) Piano Diploma with Distinction in 2018 and the Licentiate of Music, Australia (LMusA) Piano Diploma in 2019, and was awarded an HSC Music Encore Nomination at the Sydney Opera House in 2019.

During her studies, Mengzhen received several scholarships, including the Dorothy Ryder-Phillips Award (2023) for achieving the highest mark in piano recitals, the George and Margaret Henderson Scholarship (2024), the David and Nhilla Dumbrell Scholarship (2024) and the Kathleen and Allison Short Scholarship (2025). As a collaborative pianist, she received First Prize at the Sydney Conservatorium Sonata Duo Competition and was selected to participate in a regional tour of Australia in 2024.

Mengzhen was awarded a scholarship to attend the Music at Château d'Aix festival in France, where she studied with Paul Roberts, Stefan Bojsten and Lafki Karpodini. She was a finalist in the Sydney Conservatorium piano concerto competition in each of four consecutive years from 2022 to 2025, performing concertos by Liszt, Beethoven and Bartók. She has performed solo and chamber music at the Sydney Town Hall, Verbruggen Hall at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Weifang Concert Hall and Qingdao Concert Hall.

Repertoire

Johann Sebastian Bach

Well-tempered Clavier, Book II

- (xiv) Prelude and Fugue in F sharp minor,
BWV 883

Frédéric Chopin

Étude, Op 10 No 10 in A flat major

Marc-André Hamelin

12 Études in All the Minor Keys

- (iii) Étude No 3 in B minor (after Paganini-
Liszt)

Raymond Hanson

Piano Sonata, Op 12

- (i) [no tempo direction given]
(ii) Andante espressivo
(iii) [no tempo direction given]

Franz Liszt

Années de pèlerinage II, S 161

- (vii) Après une lecture du Dante: Fantasia
quasi sonata

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Sonata No 3 in B flat major, K 281

- (i) Allegro
(ii) Andante amoroso
(iii) Rondo: Allegro

Maurice Ravel

Gaspard de la nuit, M 55

- (i) Ondine
(ii) Le Gibet
(iii) Scarbo

Dono Ng 26 years old from New South Wales



Dono Ng completed his Bachelor of Music (Performance) with First Class Honours at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music under Dr Paul Rickard-Ford. He previously studied with Julie Kuok and Dr Kirill Monorosi, and has attended masterclasses with Professor Konstantin Scherbakov since 2022.

At the 2021 Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition, Dono received Third Prize, the Betty Byrne Henderson Encouragement Award, Best Performance of a Piece by Chopin and Best Performance of a Virtuoso Etude. He made his concerto debut at the competition, performing Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Johannes Fritzsch.

In 2023, Dono organised the Rachmaninoff 150th celebration concert series at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. The following year, he initiated the ongoing series Medtner and his Pianism and co-founded the Medtner Chamber Orchestra of Sydney, performing Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 1 in the orchestra's inaugural concert alongside trumpeter Elizabeth Dawson, under the baton of Alexander Yau.

A casual lecturer in Collaborative Piano at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Dono is also a finalist of the Geoffrey Parsons Award (2021 and 2023) and is in high demand as a collaborative pianist.

Repertoire

Charles-Valentin Alkan

Cavatina from Beethoven's String Quartet, Op 130 (arr. for solo piano)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Toccatina in D major, BWV 912

Chorale Prelude: Nun freut euch, lieben

Christen g'mein, BWV 734

Percy Grainger

British Folk-Music Settings: No 6 Irish Tune
from County Derry

In Dahomey: Cakewalk Smasher

Fritz Kreisler

arranged Sergei Rachmaninoff

Liebesleid

Liebesfreud

Franz Liszt

12 Lieder von Franz Schubert, S 558

(i) Sei mir gegrüsst

Beethoven Symphony No 1 – Transcription for
solo piano, S 464/1

(i) Adagio molto – Allegro con brio

(ii) Andante cantabile con moto

(iii) Menuetto – Allegro molto e vivace

(iv) Adagio – Allegro molto vivace

Nikolai Medtner

Six Skazki (Tales), Op 51

(iii) No 3 in A major

Felix Mendelssohn

Songs without Words, Op 67

(ii) No 2 in F sharp minor

(iv) No 4 in C major (Spinnerlied)

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Études-Tableaux, Op 33 No 8 in C sharp minor

Franz Schubert

Sonata in A major, D 664

(i) Allegro moderato

(ii) Andante

(iii) Allegro

Simón Pazos Quintana 28 years old from South Australia



Simón Pazos Quintana is a Spanish-born, Adelaide-based pianist, accompanist and teacher. He holds an Honours Degree of Bachelor of Music (Classical Performance – Piano) and a Doctor of Philosophy (Performance-based Research) from the Elder Conservatorium of Music at the University of Adelaide, where he studied with Professor Stefan Ammer. His doctoral research centred on the piano works of Aleksandr Mosolov and received a Dean's Commendation.

In 2018, Simón made his concerto debut with the Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 in E flat major, Op 73 (Emperor). Later that year, he was awarded the Peter Schodde Memorial Piano Scholarship, which he used to travel throughout Germany, Austria and England to study with leading professors and performers.

Simón was a finalist in the Geoffrey Parsons Award for piano accompaniment in 2019, 2021 and 2023, and received First Prize and the Special Set Work Prize in 2025. He accompanies classes, examinations and festivals at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, where he also teaches piano as part of the Open Music Academy, and appears regularly in the Recitals Australia Lunchtime Series.

As a solo recitalist, Simón has performed works by Mosolov at the 2024 Adelaide PianoLab festival and gave a solo recital as part of the Elder Conservatorium Lunchtime Concert Series in 2025. He performed Saint-Saëns' Piano Concerto No. 5 in F major, Op. 103 (Egyptian) with the Burnside Symphony Orchestra in 2025 and Janáček's Capriccio for Piano Left-Hand with the Adelaide Wind Orchestra in 2024.

Repertoire

Johann Sebastian Bach

Well-tempered Clavier, Book I

(xxii) Prelude and Fugue in B flat minor, BWV
867

Frédéric Chopin

Polonaise, Op 26 No 1 in C sharp minor

Ernst von Dohnányi

Rhapsody, Op 11 No 3 in C major

Ross Edwards

Etymlong

Aleksandr Mosolov

Piano Sonata, Op 4 No 2 in B minor

- (i) Sonata. Andante non troppo
- (ii) Adagio. Espressivo, sostenuto e severo (Allegretto)
- (iii) Final. Allegro tumultuoso, infernale

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Sonata No 13 in B flat major, K 333/315c

- (i) Allegro
- (ii) Andante cantabile
- (iii) Allegretto grazioso

Domenico Scarlatti

Sonata in E major, K 380

Sonata in E major, K 531

Alexander Scriabin

Étude, Op 42 No 5 in C sharp minor

Fantaisie, Op 28 in B minor

Prélude, Op 11 No 2 in A minor

Antonio Soler

Sonata R 10 in B minor

Thong Truong 25 years old from Victoria



Vietnamese-Australian pianist Thong Truong is currently pursuing a Graduate Performance Diploma at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University under Alexander Shtarkman, where he holds a Graduate Assistantship in Opera Accompanying and an Artistic Excellence Award. He completed his Master of Music at Florida State University under Read Gainsford.

Following early studies with Wendy McLean and Jennifer Chou, Thong undertook his undergraduate studies at the University of Melbourne and Monash University under Jerry Wong, Tomoe Kawabata and Anthony Halliday. During his time in Australia, he received First Prize at the Monash University Concerto and Aria Competition, the Australian Classical Music Prize and the Margaret Sutherland Bursary Award.

Thong's concerto appearances include Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Monash Academy Orchestra, Ravel's Piano Concerto in G with the Preston Symphony Orchestra and Carl Vine's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Florida State University Philharmonia. Thong was also awarded the Mary Elizabeth McComas Piano Scholarship to attend the 2023 Amalfi Coast Music Festival in Italy.

Committed to Australian repertoire, Thong performs works by composers including Miriam Hyde, Elena Kats-Chernin and Peter Sculthorpe, and has previously served on the piano faculty at St Margaret's Berwick Grammar School in Melbourne.

Repertoire

Isaac Albéniz

Iberia, Book II

- (i) Rondeña
- (ii) Almería
- (iii) Triana

Frédéric Chopin

Barcarolle in F sharp major, Op 60

Ballade No 1 in G minor, Op 23

Muzio Clementi

Sonata in B minor, Op 40 No 2

- (i) Molto adagio e sostenuto – Allegro con fuoco e con espressione
- (ii) Largo mesto e patetico
- (iii) Allegro

Nikolai Kapustin

Eight Concert Études, Op 40

- (iii) Toccata

Alexander Scriabin

Sonata No 9, Op 68 (Black Mass)

Charles Trenet

arranged Alexis Weissenberg

En avril à Paris

Carl Vine

Piano Sonata No 1

- (i) [unnamed]
- (ii) Leggiero e legato

Earl Wild

Seven Virtuoso Études after Gershwin

- (iii) The Man I Love

Reuben Tsang 23 years old from Queensland



Reuben Tsang began his piano studies in Cairns with Koko Julian before moving to Brisbane to study at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, first under Natasha Vlassenko OAM and presently with Daniel de Borah. He holds a Bachelor of Music with Distinction and First Class Honours and was awarded the 2024 Conservatorium Medal.

In September 2026, Reuben will commence postgraduate studies on scholarship at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester under Kathryn Stott.

At the 2024 Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition, Reuben received First Prize, the Best Recital Prize and the People's Choice Prize. He also received the Best Australian Pianist Prize at the 2023 Sydney International Piano Competition, was a semi-finalist at the 2023 Aarhus International Piano Competition in Denmark, received the Elisabeth Murdoch Prize at the 2022 Great Romantics Competition and First Prize at the 2025 National Young Virtuoso Award.

Over the past two years, Reuben has appeared as concerto soloist with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Brisbane Symphony Orchestra, Queensland Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra and North Queensland Chamber Orchestra, working with conductors Benjamin Northey, Johannes Fritzsche and Stefanie Smith. He has performed solo recitals across Australia including at the Canberra International Music Festival, and has appeared in an interstate tour with Piano+.

As a chamber musician, Reuben has performed at the Bendigo Chamber Music Festival, Queensland Art Song Festival, Megalong Music Festival, Out West Piano Fest and the Musical Chairs Chamber Music Festival in Montreal.

Repertoire

Frédéric Chopin

Ballade No 4 in F minor, Op 52
Nocturne in E flat major, Op 55 No 2

Franz Liszt

Réminiscences de Norma, S 394

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Sonata No 10 in C major, K 330
(i) Allegro moderato
(ii) Andante cantabile
(iii) Allegretto

Sergei Prokofiev

Ten Pieces from Romeo and Juliet, Op 75
(ii) Scene
(iv) Young Juliet
(v) Masks
(vi) Montagues and Capulets
(vii) Friar Laurence
(viii) Mercutio

Domenico Scarlatti

Sonata in D major, K 119
Sonata in G major, K 427

Alexander Scriabin

Sonata No 5, Op 53

Carl Vine

The Anne Landa Preludes
(i) Short Story
(ii) Filigree
(x) Romance

Oscar Wong 28 years old from Queensland



Oscar Wong studied at the Queensland Conservatorium, École Normale de Musique de Paris and the Australian National Academy of Music, and recently completed a Master of Music at the Feliks Nowowiejski Academy of Music in Poland. He received the Licentiate of Music, Australia (LMusA) at the age of 15 and the Fellowship of Music, Australia (FMusA) four years later.

Oscar received First Prize at the 2024 Antonin Radziwiłł International Piano Competition in Poland, the 2023 International Chopin Competition in ASIA in Japan, the 2022 Premio Elisabeth Tchaikowsky in Switzerland, the 2018 Theme and Variations Foundation Award, the 2017 Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition, the 2024 Sydney Eisteddfod Kawai Scholarship and a Special Prize in the 2025 Vigo International Piano Competition in Spain.

An active performer, Oscar has performed as soloist with the Queensland Symphony, Queensland Conservatorium Symphony, Queensland Pops, Brisbane Philharmonic, Gold

Coast Philharmonic, ANAM Symphony, ANAM Baroque Orchestra, Southern Cross Soloists, AMFN Symphony in Bydgoszcz and the Poland Evolution String Quartet. He has appeared at festivals including the International Festival Chopin In Autumn Colours in Poland, Moscow Conservatory International Winterschool, Hamamatsu International Piano Academy and the Malta International Music Festival.

A passionate chamber musician, Oscar has performed at the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, Bangalow Music Festival and the Australian Piano Duo Festival. He received the ANAM Obligato Chamber Music Prize and the Most Outstanding Pianist Award at the 10th Tadeusz Gónci Viola Festival in Kraków, Poland.

Oscar's principal teachers include Natasha Vlassenko OAM, Jean-Bernard Pommier, Timothy Young, Dr Paweł Wakarecy and Katarzyna Popowa-Zydroń. In 2021, he performed for the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency, General David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) and Mrs Linda Hurley.

Repertoire

Ludwig van Beethoven

Piano Sonata No 26 in E flat major, Op 81a
(Das Lebewohl)

- (i) Adagio – Allegro
- (ii) Andante espressivo
- (iii) Vivacissimamente

Ludwig van Beethoven arranged Franz Liszt

An die ferne Geliebte, Op 98

- (vi) Nimm sie hin denn, diese Lieder –
Andante con moto – Cantabile
– Molto Adagio – Andante espressivo –
Allegro molto e con brio

Claude Debussy

L'isle joyeuse, L 106

Heino Kaski

Yö Meren Rannalla (Night at Sea), Op 34 No 1

Nikolai Kapustin

Concert Étude, Op 40 No 1 (Prelude)

Jean-Baptiste Loeillet

Keyboard Suite in E minor

- (i) Allemande
- (ii) Air Tendre
- (iii) Courante
- (iv) Minuet
- (v) Gigue

Moritz Moszkowski

arranged Vladimir Horowitz

Étincelles, Op 36 No 6

Francis Poulenc

Novelette No 2 in B flat minor, FP 47

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Études-Tableaux, Op 39

- (v) Appassionato

Robert Schumann

Drei Romanzen, Op 28

- (i) Sehr markirt in B flat minor
- (ii) Einfach in F sharp major
- (iii) Sehr markirt in B major

Karol Szymanowski

Masques, Op 34

- (ii) Błazen Tantris (Tantris the Clown)

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

arranged Samuil Feinberg

Symphony No 6 (Pathétique)

- (iii) Allegro molto vivace

Carl Vine

Piano Sonata No 1

- (ii) Leggiero e legato

Silvina Wong 24 years old from New South Wales



Silvina Wong is a Hong Kong-born pianist who completed her Bachelor of Music (Performance) and Master of Music Studies (Piano Performance) at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where she studied under Clemens Leske and Daniel Herscovitch and received guidance from Elizabeth Powell. Prior to her studies in Sydney, she studied with Raymond Young at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Silvina maintains an active performing and teaching schedule in Sydney, appearing as both a soloist and collaborative pianist in solo and duo piano recitals, chamber music, orchestral and choral concerts. Her performances have been presented in Sydney, Melbourne, Hong Kong, Salzburg and Toulouse. In 2026, she was selected to perform on The Talent, broadcast by 3MBS.

In 2023, Silvina was selected as one of the performers for the Emerging Artist Concert Series organised by Theme and Variations Piano Services. She has received prizes in piano competitions across solo and duo categories and has been awarded scholarships to the Music at Château d'Aix festival in France, where Silvina studied with Paul Roberts and Martin Sturfält, and the Mozarteum International Summer Academy in Salzburg, where she studied with Leonel Morales and Leo de María.

Repertoire

Ludwig van Beethoven

Sonata No 28 in A major, Op 101

- (i) Etwas lebhaft, und mit der innigsten Empfindung. Allegretto, ma non troppo
- (ii) Lebhaft, marschmäßig. Vivace alla marcia
- (iii) Langsam und sehnsuchtsvoll. Adagio, ma non troppo, con affetto
- (iv) Geschwind, doch nicht zu sehr, und mit Entschlossenheit. Allegro

Frédéric Chopin

Sonata No 3 in B minor, Op 58

- (i) Allegro maestoso
- (ii) Scherzo: Molto vivace
- (iii) Largo
- (iv) Finale: Presto non tanto

Claude Debussy

Préludes, Book II

- (vii) La terrasse des audiences du clair de lune
 - (xi) Les tierces alternées
- L'isle joyeuse, L 106

Marc-André Hamelin

Étude No 5 in G minor (Toccata grottesca)

Franz Liszt

Hungarian Rhapsody No 12 in C sharp minor, S 244/12

Domenico Scarlatti

Sonata in E major, K 162

Sonata in G major, K 455

Carl Vine

The Anne Landa Preludes

- (i) Short Story
- (ii) Filigree
- (vii) Divertissement
- (x) Romance

George Walker

Prelude and Caprice

Liam Wooding 34 years old from Western Australia



Liam Wooding began his musical training in New Zealand before relocating to Melbourne to study at the Australian National Academy of Music under Timothy Young. He is currently completing a Doctor of Musical Arts through the University of Waikato, exploring the performance of New Zealand piano music.

During this period, Liam was awarded a Fulbright New Zealand General Graduate Award to study at the University of California San Diego with Aleck Karis, and received the Arts Foundation of New Zealand Springboard Award in 2025.

Liam has appeared in solo recitals for the West Australian Piano Pedagogy Conference, The Piano: Centre for Music and the Arts, the University of California San Diego, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, the University of Canterbury and Chamber Music New Zealand. In 2022, he performed Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 with the West Australian Youth Orchestra. His solo performances are regularly broadcast on RNZ Concert.

Liam performs regularly with the chamber music collective Cygnus Arioso, which presents classical music across diverse venues in Perth. He is also a member of the Morton Trio, with whom he has toured nationally and recorded for Atoll Records. He has worked with NZTrio, soprano Sara MacIver, violinist Akiko Miyazawa and composer Lachlan Skipworth.

Repertoire

Johann Sebastian Bach

Toccatà in E minor BWV 914

Introduction – Un poco allegro – Adagio –

Fuga: Allegro

Ludwig van Beethoven

Sonata in A flat major, Op 110

(i) Moderato cantabile molto espressivo

(ii) Allegro molto

(iii) Adagio ma non troppo – Fuga: Allegro
ma non troppo

Johannes Brahms

Variations on an Original Theme in D major,
Op 21 No 1

Theme: Poco larghetto, poco forte, molto
espressivo e legato

Var (i) Molto piano e legato

Var (ii) Più moto, espressivo

Var (iii) Dolce

Var (iv) Dolce

Var (v) Tempo di tema, Canone in moto
contrario, molto dolce, teneramente

Var (vi) Più moto, espressivo, legato

Var (vii) Andante con moto, dolce

Var (viii) Allegro non troppo

Var (ix) –

Var (x) Espressivo agitato

Var (xi) Tempo di tema, poco più lento, dolce

Olivier Messiaen

Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus

(xi) Première communion de la Vierge

(xii) La Parole toute-puissante

(xiii) Noël

Camille Saint-Saëns

Études, Op 52

(vi) Étude en forme de valse

Lachlan Skipworth

Shingetsu

Carl Vine

Five Bagatelles

(i) Darkly

(ii) Leggiero e legato

(iii) –

(iv) –

(v) Threnody (for all of the innocent victims)

Earl Wild

Seven Virtuoso Études after Gershwin

(ii) Somebody Loves Me

(iii) The Man I Love

(iv) Embraceable You

(vii) Fascinatin' Rhythm

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