

XIYAN WANG, PIANO

Xiyan Wang, a native of Guangzhou, China, started her piano studies at the age of four. After receiving several local and regional competition awards at a young age, Ms. Wang started her early training at the Xinghai Conservatory of Music affiliated middle school in Guangzhou when she was 12. Upon completion, she was granted scholarship at Interlochen Arts Academy in MI in 2001, where she began studying piano with Thoma J. Lymenstull, Dr. Stephen Perry and Yoshikazu Nagai. Ms. Wang graduated with honors in Piano Achievement and was awarded the Fine Arts Award in Music. She received awards



from *the PianoArts of Wisconsin National Concerto Competition* in 2002, and performed at the Northwestern University of Chicago's "From Vienna to Harlem" Piano Festival in 2003. In 2004, Ms. Wang was selected to give performance for the visit of the Chinese Government Delegation in Washington DC. While studying at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Ms. Wang was a recipient of the Phyllis Wattis Scholarship, the Presser Award, where she earned her BM and MM in piano performance under the tutelage of Mack McCray. In 2011, Ms. Wang graduated with her Professional Studies Diploma from the conservatory. After graduation, she was active as a performer in many San Francisco local events such as the annual Italian Athletic Club celebration, the Outside Land Music Festival and SF Opera Bravo!Club.

Ms. Wang has worked closely with young composers and gave many premiere performances. She also collaborated with great artists in recitals such as the principal bassoonist Stephen Paulson and principal trumpet Mark Inouye from the San Francisco Symphony. Ms. Wang has also been a frequent artist at the St. Mary Cathedral's concert series, where she gave many solo and duo recitals throughout the years. She continuously has a great passion for performing and teaching. She is currently an accompanist at the Peninsula Girls Chorus, Music Associate at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and faculty at Green Octave School of Music. She is also active as a solo pianist and private piano instructor in the Bay Area.

SHANNON WOLFE, VOICE

Shannon Wolfe is a radiant and versatile performer who specializes in American Songbook jazz and cabaret. She holds a Master of Music degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music where she studied opera and Baroque chamber music. She also earned a Bachelor of Science in Sociology, with honors, from Northern Arizona University.

As a music educator, Shannon is sought after as a voice teacher and director of children's musical theater. She has served on the faculty at the Holy Name Conservatory of Music since 2008. Shannon has been a teaching artist with Young Imaginations, a non-profit organization which offers music and singing classes to underserve elementary and middle school children in Marin County. She also served on faculty with the San Francisco Youth Chorus where she taught voice, assisted chorus rehearsals and taught specialized classes in Yoga for Kids.



Shannon directed the Children's Musical Theatre class at Mira Loma Elementary for two years and recently served on faculty for the music department teaching voice and musical theater at the San Francisco High School of the Arts. She maintains a studio for private client voice lessons in San Francisco's Sunset district where she offers voice and acting lessons for kids and teens.

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Shannon has been a regular performer at Society Cabaret inside the Hotel Rex in downtown San Francisco. Shannon is the creator of Femmes Fatales: A Film Noir Cabaret, an hour long show in which she sings rare songs from film noir, using original movie dialogue while narrating the intimate details of the actors's lives. She is also creator of Frank Sinatra & Dinah Shore: 100 Years of Music and Lonely Girl: The Songs of Julie London. Shannon is one half of the comedic jazz cabaret duo, Sophisticated Ladies which features songs from the Art Deco and Hollywood's silver screen, the tunes of Tin Pan Alley and the ballads of Broadway.

Additional stage credits include the role of Madame Herz in Mozart's The Impresario with the San Francisco Conservatory of Music as well as La Poesie in the chamber opera Les Arts Florissants and Soprano Soloist in both Vivaldi's Gloria and Bach's Magnificat with the Conservatory's Baroque Ensemble. Opera credits include Laretta in Gianni Schicchi with Northern Arizona University Opera, and Belinda in Dido and Aeneas at the Vancouver Early Music Society's Baroque Summer Music Festival.

Shannon is an active singer with Transcendent Pathways, a non-profit music service organization which provides free-of-charge musicians for Bay Area hospitals, hospices, as well as memorial services for low-income and homeless housing tenants in downtown San Francisco.

Enjoy Shannon's website at: www.shannonmariewolfe.com

VICTOR XIE, VIOLIN/VIOLA

“The focus of my teaching begins with building a good foundation for each student. While having a solid technical foundation is important, it is a tool for better musical expression. My goal is to inspire and to provide each student with the needed tools to reach their full potential, while helping them to develop their own voice and to become a performer with individuality.”

Passionate in pedagogy, Mr. Xie’s teaching style have been greatly influenced by the teaching philosophies of his mentors and other great artists whom he had the privilege to study with. He started teaching private lessons in 2009. In 2012, he was recommended by Jodi Levitz to become teaching fellow at the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra’s chamber music program that summer, where he gave chamber music coaching, private lessons and master classes to young string musicians. As of today, his students are frequent participants at youth orchestras and summer music programs such as the Philadelphia International Music Camp’s Festival (PIMF), Standford Youth Orchestra, Interlochen Summer Music Camp, Tanglewood Institute (BUTI), Peninsula Youth Orchestra (PYO), etc. Mr. Xie’s studio currently consists students ranging mostly from age 5 – 18, and he teaches both viola and violin.

A native of Guangzhou, China, Congbang “Victor” Xie began his early music training on the piano at age nine. At age fourteen, he began studying the violin with Ri-Xing. He moved to the United States with his family at the age of fifteen, and continued his violin studies in San Francisco with Zuo-Han Pan. Attracted by the deeper tone of the viola, he begins to play the viola at age seventeen studying with Yun-Jie Liu. He continues to study both violin and viola simultaneously with both teachers until admitted to the San Francisco Conservatory of Music at age eighteen as a SFCM scholarship recipient, where he earned both Bachelor of Music (B.M.) and Master of Music (M.M.) in Viola Performance respectively. Mr. Xie focused his study in viola performance and pedagogy at the conservatory under the guidance of his principal teacher Jodi Levitz, and studied chamber music with Mark Sokol, Jean-Michel Fonteneau, Axel Strauss, Bettina Mussumeli, Yoshikazu Nagai, etc.; he has also performed in master classes by renowned artists such as members of the Juilliard String Quartet, Borromeo String Quartet, Kim Kashkashian, etc.

An active performer, Mr. Xie co-premiered the work “Dialogos para dos violas” (later re-titled to “Scherzo”, duett for two violas) by award-winning composer Ilya Demutsky, and “Overseas Call” by Canadian composer, Chen Ke. He received his early orchestral training with the Golden Gate

Philharmonic in which he served as concertmaster, and later in San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra as assistant principal viola. With the SFSYO, he has performed in some of the iconic concert venues in Central Europe and the U.S. including the Berliner Philharmonie, München Philharmonie, Smetana Hall, Davis Symphony Hall, etc. Mr. Xie’s recent concert engagements include recitals at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and Concert Series at the St.Mary’s Cathedral in San Francisco.



MARIO TSZ-CHUN TO, GUITAR

Mario Tsz-chun To is an avid guitarist and chamber musician. He had worked with internationally acclaimed artists such as German tenor Knut Schoch and Hungarian conductor Gergely Madaras.



As a solo guitarist, Mario won the Tarrega Malaysia International Guitar Festival Competition in 2017 and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts Concerto Competition in 2021. In 2023, he was invited by The Peninsular Guitar Series to give a concert in Palo Alto, CA, premiering his own compositions and

arrangements. He had also been invited by the Hong Kong International Airport, the Asia Society, and the Royal Commonwealth Society to perform on stage. As an ensemble player, he collaborated tightly with the Hong Kong New Music Ensemble and was featured as the spotlight artist in the NOVA Ensemble Guitar Project in 2019. He is also an experienced musician in operas, notable production includes the 2019 world-premiere chamber opera “Beauty and Sadness”. In 2020, he was invited by the University of Hong Kong to deliver a lecture on the music of Tōru Takemitsu.

Mario’s achievements have also been widely recognized through his numerous scholarships. He is a three-time recipient of the HSBC Hong Kong Scholarship and an awardee of the prestigious Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme. Other scholarships include the Society of APA Scholarship and the Grantham Scholarship etc.

Mario is currently studying at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music on full scholarship as the teaching assistant. He graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, under the guidance of Ms. Meng Su and the Academy Director, Prof. Adrian Walter.

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