

THE WORLD'S BEST CLASSICAL MUSIC REVIEWS

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## Yunchan Lim

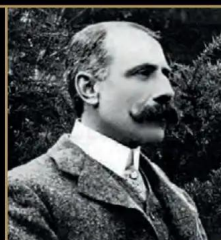
*The astounding  
debut Chopin album  
from the piano star*



### PLUS



Maurizio Pollini:  
remembering  
a great pianist



The Dream  
of Gerontius:  
Paul McCreeh  
on Elgar's epic



Summer  
Festivals 2024:  
our global guide  
to the season



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*Calisto*, Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* and Kevin Puts's *Elizabeth Cree*. Plus, Jens Ibsen's youth opera *Rumpelstiltskin and the Unlovable Children* is premiered. Artistic and General Director Robert Ainsley curates the new Project Pipeline, supporting emerging voices and works in progress and giving audiences insight into the creative process. [glimmerglass.org](http://glimmerglass.org)

## Grand Teton Music Festival

June 27 – August 17

Eight weeks of orchestral and chamber music plus free community events take place in the foothills of Wyoming's Teton Mountain Range, under Music Director Sir Donald Runnicles. Augustin Hadelich kicks off the Festival Orchestra series with Beethoven's Violin Concerto. The opera initiative continues with a semi-staged *The Magic Flute*. Dalia Stasevska returns as guest conductor, and other highlights include a world premiere by Detlev Glanert, a Garrick Ohlsson piano recital and an evening with cellist Yo-Yo Ma to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the festival's home. [gtmf.org](http://gtmf.org)

## Hollywood Bowl

June 15 – September 28

The Hollywood Bowl has been Southern California's premier outdoor destination for live music of all genres since 1922, and its star-studded classical concerts feature the LA Philharmonic with Gustavo Dudamel. Highlights include two centenary celebrations: of Henry Mancini's birth and of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, with Jean-Yves Thibaudet at the piano for an all-Gershwin night conducted by Lionel Bringuier. There's the traditional Tchaikovsky Spectacular, and further soloists include violinists Augustin Hadelich, Joshua Bell, Midori, Pinchas Zukerman and Ray Chen, soprano Diana Damrau, and tenor Jonas Kaufmann. [hollywoodbowl.com](http://hollywoodbowl.com)

## La Jolla Music Society SummerFest

July 26 – August 24

This Californian festival under the musical direction of pianist Inon Barnatan takes place at the Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center. The theme for 2024 is Inside Stories, by which the universal language of music paints a vibrant canvas depicting the profound depths of human experience. The usual Wednesday series offers intermission-free concerts followed by free champagne and socialising. Visiting artists include composer-in-residence Thomas Adès, violinists Augustin Hadelich and Tessa Lark, pianist Conrad Tao, cellist Alisa Weilerstein, Voces8, the Brandee Younger Trio and the Paper Cinema. [theconrad.org/summerfest](http://theconrad.org/summerfest)

## Lake George Music Festival

August 11–22

This year's event in New York State takes place in the newly renovated historic Carriage House of the Fort William Henry Hotel, presenting chamber and orchestral concerts curated by Barbara Kolarova and Roger Kalia in which core and guest artists – drawn from top international orchestras – nurture an academy-style roster of young musician 'fellows' working alongside them. [lakegeorgemusicfestival.com](http://lakegeorgemusicfestival.com)

## Music from Land's End Wareham

July 26 – August 11

This chamber music festival under the directorship of violinist Ariadne Daskalakis is held near Boston. This year's two programmes focus on the Schubert Octet (July 26–28) and music by Purcell, the Bach family and contemporary composer Sebastian Gottschick (August 9–11). Artists include soprano Sherezade Panthaki and countertenor Jay Carter. [mlewareham.org](http://mlewareham.org)

## Manchester Music Festival

July 11 – August 8

This Vermont festival celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, under the artistic direction of Philip Setzer (Emerson Quartet). It explores the definition and roots of Romanticism via Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Dvořák, Tchaikovsky and Debussy. There's also the world premiere of a new version (for harp and ensemble) of Sarah Kirkland Snider's *Drink the Wild Ayre*. [mmfvt.org](http://mmfvt.org)

## Marlboro Music Festival

July 13 – August 11

Pianists Mitsuko Uchida and Jonathan Biss are joint artistic directors of this chamber festival in southern Vermont where young professionals are given the chance to live alongside, collaborate with and be nurtured by eminent artists. Groups who feel they've achieved especially successful results then put forward their work for performance, making for especially dynamic public concerts whose details are announced no more than a week in advance. Thomas Adès and Sally Beamish are composers-in-residence. [marlboromusic.org](http://marlboromusic.org)

## Music@Menlo Chamber Music Festival and Institute

July 19 – August 10

Under the artistic directorship of cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han, this festival based at Menlo School in Atherton, California, is titled French Reflections. Mainstage programmes feature diverse works from the 17th century to the present day, while carte blanche programmes curated by festival artists themselves explore French violin, piano and vocal repertoire. All

is supported by multimedia lectures and cafe conversations with festival artists. This year's line-up sees festival debuts from pianists Jean-Efflam Bavouzet and Cliburn silver medalist Anna Geniushene. [musicatmenlo.org](http://musicatmenlo.org)

## Midsummer's Music

June 13 – September 2

This Door County, Wisconsin, event presents an enticing variety of chamber music for wind, strings and piano, drawing on the talents of musicians from Lyric Opera Chicago, the orchestras of Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit and Ravinia Festival, and the Orpheus CO. Enjoy Beethoven, Mozart, Dvořák and Brahms among works by a diverse array of composers historical and contemporary. Further artists include guitarist Eric Lewis and the Griffon and Pro Arte quartets. [midsummersmusic.com](http://midsummersmusic.com)

## Minnesota Beethoven Festival

June 30–July 21

Cellist Steven Isserlis and pianist Connie Shih open this festival by drawing links between Beethoven and composers including Thomas Adès, while a later recital sees violinist Joshua Bell join pianist Jeremy Denk for Mozart, Stravinsky and, of course, Beethoven himself. The Esmé Quartet, pianists Zee Zee and Awadagin Pratt and acclaimed local ensemble the Minnesota Orchestra itself also make appearances throughout the festival. [mnbeethovenfestival.org](http://mnbeethovenfestival.org)

## Montreal Chamber Music Festival

June 13–23

Highlights include performances by the Barbican, Galvin and Ehnes quartets, and James Ehnes in all the Bach *Brandenburg Concertos*. [festivalmontreal.org](http://festivalmontreal.org)

## Music Academy Summer Festival

June 8 – August 4

Expect major names among the teaching faculty at this gathering of talented young artists for training, performance and personal connection (including more than 70 public masterclasses) in the spectacular coastal setting of Santa Barbara, California. There'll also be a mix of large-scale and chamber public performances. [musicacademy.org](http://musicacademy.org)

## Newport Classical Music Festival

July 4–21

This Rhode Island festival offers 27 concerts and numerous free community events at a variety of historic venues as well as outdoors. Highlights include the Sphinx Virtuosi with cellist Tommy Mesa, a violin recital from Anne Akiko Meyers and performances by Chanticleer and Canadian Brass. Opera Night features

Peter Brook's production of Bizet's *Carmen*, directed by Tara Barnham. And there's the world premiere of a commission from Brazilian-American composer Clarice Assad, performed by mezzo Renée Rapier and PUBLIQuartet. [newportclassical.org](http://newportclassical.org)

## Ojai Music Festival

June 6–9

Pianist Mitsuko Uchida is this year's curator of the Californian festival at Ojai Valley's Libbey Bowl. Among her own performances is the opening concert, for which she's joined by soprano Lucy Fitz Gibbon and the Brentano Quartet for a programme of Haydn, Schoenberg and Mozart. Another notable visitor is the Mahler CO. The repertoire is as eclectic as ever – 21st-century composers (eg Saariaho, Missy Mazzoli and John Adams) feature strongly. [ojafestival.org](http://ojafestival.org)

## Oregon Bach Festival

June 28 – July 14

This year's theme is Ascending Voices, exploring the universal experiences of grief, healing, acceptance and joy. Highlights include Bach's *Ascension Oratorio*, Holst's *The Planets*, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, a residency from composer Eric Whitacre, and a new Bach transcription from Damien Geter. Events are held at venues around the city of Eugene. [oregonbachfestival.org](http://oregonbachfestival.org)

## Music in PyeongChang

July 24 – August 3

South Korea's famous classical music festival is held in the mountainous Gangwon Province under the artistic direction of cellist Sung-Won Yang. Running alongside are academies offering masterclasses and chamber music mentorship programmes. Beethoven and composers who influenced him feature strongly, as do present-day ones such as Bent Sørensen and Sofia Gubaidulina. Artists include cellist Miklós Perényi, Trio con Brio Copenhagen, Casals Quartet and KBS SO. [mpyc.kr](http://mpyc.kr)

## Quebec Opera Festival

July 24 – August 4

This festival continues promoting opera in French, with the main work being Offenbach's *La vie parisienne*, complete with top cast. Otherwise, there's an array of concerts, theatrical-lyrical works, one-act operas and operettas – ranging from pure entertainment to deeper interior monologues. [operadequebec.com](http://operadequebec.com)

## Ravinia Festival

June 7 – September 15

This is where the Chicago SO has its annual summer residency under Marin Alsop (this year falling between July 12 and August 18).