MAGAZINE

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ZHIYUAN WU



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CHIKA YOSHIOKA

I believe as if they have shown me a path. So, for now, I just want to challenge myself, absorb everything, build my skills, and move forward.



You started playing at the age of 3. Do you come from a musical family? What were your beginnings and when did you consciously decide to become a pianist?

I'm not from a musical family. My parents loved classical music, so our home was always filled with it flowing from speakers. They never taught me music, but they were always my closest audience. I started attending music school when I was two years old, and began taking private lessons when I was three. At that time, I was playing because my mother loved listening to my playing, and I just like her being happy.
The moment I decided to become a pianist was when I was five, watching a certain pianist on TV move so many people. It struck me deeply; I realized the power of the piano to stir hearts. It seemed so cool. Of course, that's a memory from my childhood, and as I grew, there were many ups and downs. Yet, even now, the strongest desire to become a pianist like never before is to live my life.

You've been gaining experience studying music in Japan and Europe. What do you think are the differences in studying in these places?

In Tokyo, there are many soundproof apartments designed for musicians and students, making it comfortable to live in that regard. From the perspective of universities, I don't think there's much difference. What I feel now is that ultimately, what matters most is oneself rather than which university you attend. However, being in a good environment may provide more elements to push you forward when you want to pursue something.

What styles and eras do you particularly enjoy playing?

I enjoy playing everything!

How do you think a musician living in the modern world can understand the music of composers who lived 200 years ago? Is historical research necessary, or is it more important to have contemporary references?

It's similar to reading a book written 200 years ago. I believe human emotions are largely the same across all eras, but they were formed in societies different from ours today. Therefore, I think it's necessary to learn such knowledge in order to extract and perform music from the score.

What are your plans for the future? Dreams?

I have no future plans actually. I just would like to do my best, feeling as if I'll die in three years. I want to live each day without regrets, to the extent that if I were to die in an accident today, I want to say my life was worth living.

Tell us what do you enjoy doing, besides music?

I'm a very indoor person, but I enjoy absorbing new knowledge, so I read books. I also like interacting with people. Furthermore, I enjoy going to places rich in nature. It's a dream of mine to travel around the world visiting hot springs because I love them.

Whatis your biggest dream that you want to achieve in the coming 3 years?

My goal is to become a concert pianist. I'm fully aware that my current abilities are far from sufficient. Nevertheless, this competition, which has given me good energy and a glimmer of confidence, I always try not to see my success as a testament to my own abilities. If there is a higher power in this world, I believe as if they have shown me a path. So, for now, I just want to challenge myself, absorb everything, build my skills, and move forward. Thank you for reading this far. I hope you'll continue to support me in the future.



"I want to do my best, to be able to say that my life was worth living.

JEREMY JAHNG



"Playing viola is more than playing just the notes. It's telling a story with the sound of an instrument.

Tell us how it came about that you started playing the viola? What do you like most about the instrument?

I started playing viola because the orchestra teacher in the elementary school needed more violists. Since then, I have never looked back. I didn't appreciate viola at the beginning, but over time I slowly fell in love with the sound of viola. I find my music with viola to be my language.

What does your day currently look like? How much do you practise and what other activities do you have?

I am still a high school student so most of my day is spent with school related work. However, I still manage to practice viola just about every day.

What styles, eras, composers do you particularly enjoy playing? Which ones have you not yet explored?

I find music of contemporary composers to be my favorite. As much as I appreciate timeless classicals, I feel like I can

"I slowly fell in love with the sound of viola. I find my music with viola to be my language.

be more expressive with more modern composers.

What challenges do you face as a performer to make music engaging for your audience?

Playing viola is more than playing just the notes. It's telling a story with the sound of an instrument. Telling the story in a compelling and interesting way is always the focus for me.

What are you planning to work on in the coming months? What are your plans?

I am preparing for the music conservatory auditions at the present time.

What are your other passions, interests?

I think I am very simple. I love pets, namely fluffy dogs and cats.

What is your biggest dream?

I am a third generation classical musician. My grandmother and mother have been musicians throughout their lives. Ultimately, aside from accomplishments, I just want to be able to play viola for a very long time.

Would you recommend the World's Best Musicians Competition to other musicians and why?

Yes, I would recommend the World's Best Musicians Competition. I find the variety and quality of music presented by the winners of past and present to be very interesting. In many ways, I feel very honored to be chosen as the absolute winner.



ALEXANDER KRONBICHLER



"I think it's important to always have fun when you're playing. It's really beautiful to be able to do what you love in life and as musicians we have that wonderful gift and we should never forget that

Congratulations on the grand prize at WBMC. What are your impressions of participating in this competition?

Thank you, I am very grateful to have been elected absolute winner. I liked the competition very much. It was very easy to participate and a good opportunity to compare yourself with other musicians from around the world and to check which level you are at.

Why did you choose exactly the Vivaldi sonata? Is Baroque music close to you in some way?

Yes, I like Baroque music very much, especially this particular sonata. I also think that this sonata is good to show your abilities on the oboe, on the one hand the long lyrical lines in the slow movements and on the other hand the technical parts in the fast movements.

What other styles and eras do you particularly enjoy playing?

Every historical era has its own particular charme to it. But if I had to choose one, I would choose the classical era, because there are many very nice oboe concertos from this period like Mozart, Haydn and Lebrun.



What was your path of development as a musician? Why did you choose the oboe? What do you like about this instrument and why?

I started playing the recorder when I was six years old. At the age of 10 I then wanted to learn another wind instrument and was torn between the oboe, the clarinet and the bassoon. I eventually chose the oboe because I liked the sound of it and also because it is a little bit more of a niech-instrument that not so many people play. I started to learn the oboe at the Music school in Italy and stayed there until the age of 18. I then started my bachelors degree in Düsseldorf, Germany at the Robert-Schumann-Hochschule with Professor Ralph van Daal. I am currently in the 4th semester.

What are you currently working on?

I am currently working on the Oboe Sonatina from Pierre Sancan, a french composer of the 20th century. Also a very nice piece that isn't played very often.

What are your plans for the future? Dreams?

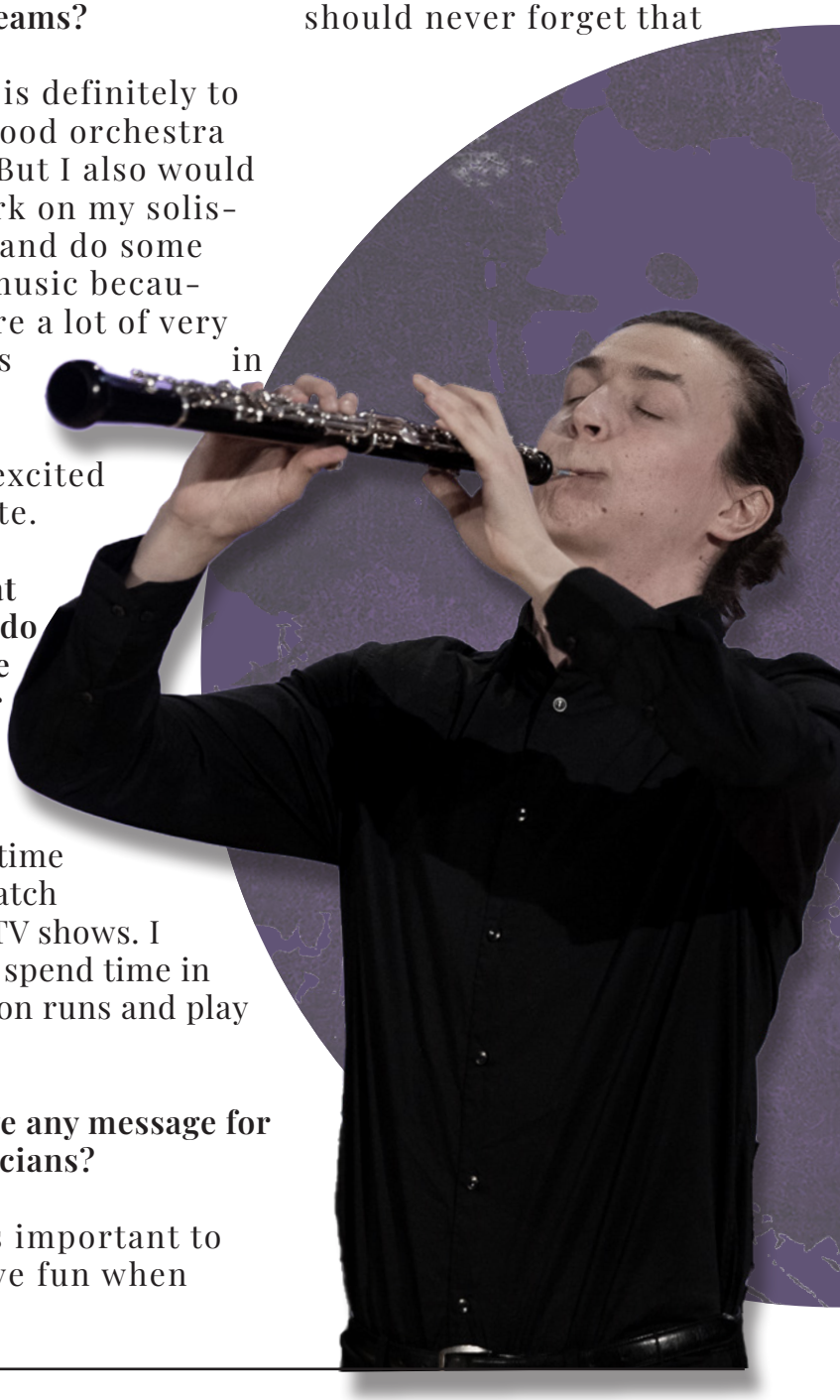
My dream is definitely to play in a good orchestra someday. But I also would like to work on my solistic career and do some chamber music because there are a lot of very nice pieces in the oboe repertoire that I am excited to elaborate.

Tell us what you like to do in your free time, other than music?

In my free time I usually watch movies or TV shows. I also like to spend time in nature, go on runs and play football.

Do you have any message for other musicians?

I think it's important to always have fun when you're playing. Especially when you are in your studies, you are always caught up in technical issues and you easily lose track of what the music is really about. I think it's really beautiful to be able to do what you love in life and as musicians we have that wonderful gift and we should never forget that



JOSÉ ANDRÉS ALVAREZ

I tend to see the instruments I compose for as a vehicle for introspection and developing my own voice as a composer.



Tell us about yourself. What is your musical background? Where do you get your inspiration from when composing?

Impressionist music, jazz, Spanish folklore, film music: a little of everything. I'd say my greatest idols include Maurice Ravel, Camarón de la Isla, Bill Evans and John Williams.

What is your daily routine?

At school, I go to the gym before class, attend class and the rest of the day I dedicate either to practicing, composing, going on a walk or just all of them. It is important to give yourself time to connect with what's around you when you're about to compose or produce music in any way. Beethoven used to take long walks before composing, or just as breaks from music. Music is a complement for our lives, not the center of them. Music should always be treated as an extension of our reality, even when we, as humans, are literally made out of music.

You have been recognized by the Jury for being very creative and versatile. You compose for various instruments and ensembles, how do you make your choices?

I tend to compose for the piano mostly, but I don't think I usually take an active role in choosing particular ensembles. I just love experimenting and learning, never stopping. Sometimes I'll compose for a big band, sometimes for synthesizers, sometimes for an experimental ensemble or for sounds of nature. I tend to see the instruments I compose for as a vehicle for introspection and developing my own voice as a composer. That's why I really don't spend much time thinking about what to compose for next.

What are you planning to work on in the coming months? What are your plans?

I am currently working on a piano suite, I think in 5 parts. I am also working on a Samba / Spanish Rumba piece for



I'm always trying to submerge myself into more forms of art.



a big band. I'm working with a couple directors in short films, too. Apart from music, I'm still working on my own series of surrealist short stories I hope to be able to publish sometime soon, once I'm done.

What is your biggest dream?

Becoming a renowned film composer at Hollywood, besides still working and transcending with my own curriculum as a classical composer.

What are your other passions, interests?

I'm always trying to submerge myself into more forms of art. I'm a devoted writer and greatly passionate for movies. Aside from that, I love to appreciate art at museums, dance and theater. I've always thought that a key to becoming better at communicating as an artist is consuming every type and style of art, even if you are not really invested in it. Everything we have around us is part of a global artistic legacy we, whether we like it or not, are part of: a type of tree that keeps growing its branches with each artistic expression around the world. Consuming from it is the only way we can find musical growth.

Would you recommend the Classical Music Stars Competition to other musicians and why?

I feel that this competition really opens up a bunch of opportunities for each musician; a couple of talented musicians have already reached out to share their opinions about my music. This competition serves as a great platform for professional exposure and also for learning about other very talented musicians.



DENIS AZAK

"I like to play much more to the people around me, which are my family or friends.

Tell us about yourself. What composers do you like, where do you get your inspiration from?

I am Denis from Germany. I am 14 years old and continue my piano education in Prof Rudiger Mühleisen's class at Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach music high school and the Julius-Stern-Institute of the Berlin Art University in Berlin.

I really enjoy listening to F. Liszt, F. Chopin, E. Grieg and W. A. Mozart. The first thing that inspired me was Mozart's Piano Sonata No. 11 (Mozart) Alla turca "Turkish March". Mozart is a great composer. His music influenced me a lot. Then came the rest. Of course, I was still a student at the music school at that time.

As a young pianist, how do you manage your school work alongside your dedication to piano playing?

After morning class about 1 or 2 pm at music high school I continue for my piano education, or rather playing the piano, at the Julius-Stern-Institute. On the weekends, I continue to take piano lessons and play the piano at the university. In my remaining time,



I do things with my family. I try to exercise regularly once a week. My weekly schedule usually looks like this. Of course, some weeks there are concerts or similar events.

What styles, eras, composers do you particularly enjoy playing? Which ones have you not yet explored?

I mostly like to play works of the baroque, classical and romantic periods. I haven't discovered the modern and jazz era yet.

How do you celebrate your musical achievements, big or small?

Generally, there are smaller celebrations. I do this with my mother and father.

How do you feel when you perform and share your music with an audience?

I like to play much more to the people around me, which are my family or friends. Of course, I feel much more comfortable at times like these. However, I can say that I had a great happiness after the concerts, too.

Tell us about your non-musical side. What are your interests, what do you like to do in your spare time?

Chess is my special interest. I love both playing and watching. Apart from that, I love reading books. I also enjoy to visiting historical places or historical cities with my family.

Would you recommend the Classical Music Stars competition to other musicians and why?

I would definitely recommend this competition to others and I will do so. For example, I have already shared it with my Piano Professor, my school and the university.

What is your biggest dream?

I want to continue playing the piano throughout my life, so my biggest dream is to become a concert pianist.



ZHIYUAN WU

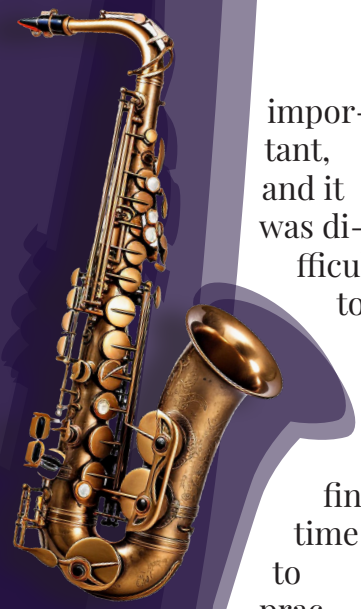
In my saxophone career, I spent most of my time practicing basic exercises, constantly improving my playing ability and my inner understanding of music.



How did you get interested in playing the saxophone? What is your story?

This is a very long story. When I was eight or nine years old, I was still very young. One day my mother took me out to play. We passed by a music store by chance. I saw a guitar and I thought it was very interesting. After returning home, I kept pestering my mother and said, "I want that guitar! I want to play it!" Later, with my constant persistence, I bought my first musical instrument in my life - a guitar! At first, I was very interested and kept practicing. I also successfully passed many certificates. However, as the repertoire continued to increase, the difficulty was also very high. My hands were very painful when practicing guitar, and slowly I began to not want to learn guitar...

My mother was very distressed. One day after I finished my guitar professional class, I walked to the door, looked up, and saw a golden thing. When I got closer, I saw that it was a golden body. I was instantly attracted to it. Later, I asked and found out that it was a saxophone. When I was a child, I was full of infinite curiosity. After returning home, I kept thinking about that saxophone. I thought it was so cool. Later, I kept pestering my parents, and finally agreed to let me buy a saxophone. I was very happy! Later, accompanied by my parents, I went to learn guitar and saxophone every week, and the saxophone also improved rapidly. As I grew older, my cultural studies became more and more



important, and it was difficult to find time to practice two instruments. Because my school had a school band, I had to give up one instrument and learn another one in the end. I chose the saxophone. I still remember that when I made the decision, my parents told me: "No matter what decision you make, your parents support you." Now I think I am very happy because I have very supportive parents. They have no musical foundation and have never learned it, but they have always supported me to learn saxophone until now. I am very grateful to my parents. After that, I started to spend all my time on the saxophone. The songs gradually became more and more difficult. I was very unhappy and irritable when practicing, but my parents always told me: "Don't be impatient, take your time, you will definitely learn it well, and you will definitely succeed step by step." When I was a child, my parents always rewarded me in the process of learning the saxophone. For example, if I passed a certificate exam, they would reward me with a toy. Of course, it was still boring in the learning process, but later as I grew older, I realized that I should be responsible for my choice. This is the instrument I liked when I was a child, and I should stick to it. Another very important reason is that my father told me that he liked a pop song very much, which was Kenny G's "Go Home". I was determined to play it for my father, so I kept learning the saxophone when I was a child. This is how I chose the saxophone and how I first learned it. I think the most important thing is my parents. They gave me the power to choose. Thanks a lot to my parents again.

You are currently studying in Poland. What made you choose this place? How do you feel as a student in Katowice?

There are many reasons why I chose to study classical music in Poland. First of all, when people think of Poland, the first reaction is that there are many very famous musicians in Poland, and Poland has a very strong music environment. There are many famous performers and composers, such as Chopin, Szymanowski and so on. There is also a very famous Chopin International Piano Competition. Poland attaches great importance to music, and has a unique and charming music style, such as Polish dance music and folk music full of nationalism. Today, the unique music style of Poland has been created, which is inseparable from many great musicians and unique national culture. The second is that Poland has many famous classical saxophone professors, and there are also many good music schools. As a classic sax student at Katowice Conservatory of Music, I feel very lucky and very warm, my teacher is Bartłomiej Professor Duś, he is a very famous saxophone player in the world, I have known







I was determined to play Kenny G's "Go Home" for my father, so I kept learning the saxophone when I was a child. I think the most important thing is that my parents gave me the power to choose, and always supported me.

him a long time ago, and I have heard many works played by my professor. I am very Like my professor's music style and music processing, my professor graduated from the High School of Music in Paris, France, and followed the famous French saxophone player Claude Delangle study, I can feel the musical feeling and music processing and music skills that I want to pursue in the works I teach the most, he is a very good teacher, and I teach his wife Magdalena Duś is also a very good and passionate teacher of the piano and chamber music who is very good at music. They constantly inspire me, care about me, and may help me. My sax classmates play very well, and sometimes I have some questions to give them, they are very happy to help me. Our learning environment is very good, like a saxophone family. In addition to studying, I feel very comfortable living in Katowice. Compared with other cities, Katowice is not very big and there are not many people. Usually, I want to go to the place where I can walk. On the way, there are many beautiful buildings and unique European-style buildings on the road, and I feel that I am very lucky, happy, grateful and comfortable to study and live in Katowice, Poland.

What do you enjoy most about playing chamber music together with other musicians?

During my study of Classical Sax in Katowice, Poland, I had some great performance experiences, such as on January 31, 2024, my professor recommended me to follow the Poland country in Katowice The Home Radio Symphony Orchestra participated in a concert of the Bernstein and Gershwin symphony orchestras. There are many famous instrumentalists and excellent conductors in this symphony orchestra. During the rehearsal, I can see with my own eyes every state of an excellent instrumentalist when playing, and feel



their love and pursuit of music. Although the instruments are different, I have seen a lot of things worth to learn from. It was meaningful for them.
I enjoyed the performance on stage that time, and it was a very happy thing to play with many excellent instrumentalists. I was also very lucky. I would like to thank my professor for giving me this meaningful experience.

How do you relax and unwind when you are not practicing or performing?

Generally, I would choose massage, floating and volcanic rock baths. Massage can dredge the muscles and meridians in our body. For floating, we can float on the water very relaxedly, accompanied by music and weak lights, which can make our hearts calmer and relax our muscles more. For a volcanic rock bath, we can lie on the volcanic rock plate, listen to soothing music and close our eyes to relax for an hour. After an hour, our body will release heat, open sweat glands, and expel toxins from the body, which is also conducive to our physical health and relaxation. The above three relaxation modes are what I often do. For me, I like them very much and I like to enjoy them. If it comes to other relaxation methods, I may also listen to pop songs, exercise, and watch TV programs to achieve relaxation effects. There are many ways to relax. The most important thing is to find the right one that you want, which is the real relaxation. I will continue to look for the possibility of every landlord's body.



Looking ahead, what are your goals and aspirations as a musician? Are there any specific projects or milestones you are working on in your musical career

In my saxophone career, I spent most of my time practicing basic exercises, constantly improving my playing ability and my inner understanding of music. I rarely participated in competitions. It was not until my postgraduate studies that I began to participate in competitions. The first was to enrich my playing experience, and the second was to meet excellent performers from various countries and learn from them. I still have a long way to go in my playing career, and there is still a lot to learn. As for the height I expect in my own saxophone career, it is a very long road. I will graduate from my master's degree in June

2024, and then I will apply for a doctorate degree at the Lodz Academy of Music in Poland. I want to continue studying saxophone performance with the famous Polish saxophone classical player Łukasz Wójcicki. On the other hand, I will continue to participate in saxophone competitions, such as the famous Andorra Saxophone Festival in the field of saxophone. The competition is held once a year in Andorra and is a very high-level, high-standard saxophone competition. As for my ultimate goal, of course, it is to participate in the Adolf International Saxophone Competition held every four years in Dinant, Belgium. This competition is the dream of all classical saxophone players. It brings together top saxophone players from all over the world. The competition is very fierce. I plan to apply for the Adolf International Saxophone Competition in 2027, hoping to find my place among many outstanding saxophone players. Of course, the ranking is not important to me, but I will be very lucky if I can go further and further. It is of great significance for me to participate in this competition. Due to the age limit of 30, the next one will be my last chance. It has always been my dream to participate in this competition. In the next day and every stage, I will continue to practice and accumulate stage experience.

What has your participation in the CMS given you? Would you recommend it to other musicians?

First of all, I am very grateful to all the work organized by the CMS. I thank all the judges. Firstly, it is a well organized and standardized competition, and secondly, I can feel that CMS is a very opportunity platform. CMS has given every contestant recognition and opportunity. This is a very trustworthy organization and competition. I will be very willing to recommend this competition to my friends. This is a competition worth participating in. I think the biggest feeling after this competition is that as long as you have a passion for music, you will definitely find your shining point in this competition!



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