

Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts  
for Dance, Music and Drama

Milton Keynes  Young  
Musician

MILTON KEYNES YOUNG MUSICIAN  
OF THE YEAR 2025



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Established in 1968, the Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts is an educational charity run on a self-funding basis by a small committee of unpaid volunteers, with the objective of providing a safe and constructive performance platform for amateur performers of all ages and levels of experience.

[www.miltonkeynesfestival.org](http://www.miltonkeynesfestival.org)

A group of young people in school uniforms are performing on a stage. A girl in the center is singing into a microphone, with her arm raised. Other students are cheering and holding up glowing pink light sticks. The background is dark with stage lights.

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# MILTON KEYNES FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

FOR DANCE, MUSIC AND DRAMA

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Affiliated to the British and International Federation of Festivals for  
Dance, Music and Drama



## Milton Keynes Young Musician of the Year 2025

Eight piano and instrumental soloists from last weekend's music festival have been invited back to further showcase their performances. All performers will receive a special trophy and certificate and a small amount of prize money and one performer will be awarded the title Milton Keynes Young Musician of the Year. Each performer is asked to prepare two pieces of up to 12 minutes of repertoire of their own choice.

### Our Judges

#### Gill Johnston AGSM



Gillian studied the bassoon with Archie Camden at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and, after a period of freelance playing, concentrated on a teaching career, before moving to Harpenden where she established her own Music School, 'Harpenden Musicale'. As well as running the Music School, Gill arranges Musicale Holidays, Competitions and a Summer Music Festival. She is the founder and Musical Director of the National Children's Wind

Orchestra and associated groups.

Gill is an adjudicator for The British and International Federation of Festivals and very much enjoys contact with young musicians, inspiring and enthusing their interest in music.

#### Jena Pang MA (Oxon), PGDL



Jena Chun-Wah Pang is based in the United Kingdom and has an international reputation for teaching and judging competitions and scholarship awards. His students are based in the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Beijing, Malaysia, Geneva, Milan, Vienna, New York and Calgary, regularly compete in international competitions and music festivals around the world and have won several first, second and third prizes at the Clavis International Piano Competition 2018 in St Petersburg Russia; the Amigdala International Piano Competition 2019 and 2021 in Italy; Feurich International Piano Competition 2019 and 2018 Vienna; Costa Festa International Piano Competition 2019 Spain; Canadian Music Competition 2019 (violin); Tadini International Piano Competition 2019 Italy; London Young Musician International Piano Competition 2020 and 2021; Harmonium Plus International Piano Competition Armenia 2020, Music and Stars International Piano Competition 2020; Monegro 88 Keys

International Piano Competition 2021 Spain, Carmel Arts International Piano Competition USA 2022, and winners of the finals of the 2020 and 2023 EPTA-UK piano competition.

Several of his students have also won the prestigious Elena Cobb Star Prize Award and have performed at the Royal Albert Hall.

He has appeared on both British and Hong Kong television playing both piano and violin. Recent concert engagements have been collaborations with Dennis Lee, Chee Hung Toh and Graeme Humphrey.

Jena was awarded an instrumental scholarship to study Music at St Peter's College, Oxford University and studied the violin with Lydia Mordkovitch and the piano with Lora Dimitrova and had lessons with Christopher Elton, Ruth Waterman, Keith Pascoe, Brenda Farrow, Shalinee Jayatilaka and Elsie Brown.

He has been teaching the piano and violin for the last 30 years and is in high demand as a teacher and for judging competitions and scholarship awards internationally. He has given many concerts, lessons and masterclasses around the world.

He is currently the Piano Convenor and a trustee of the Southend Festival of Performing Arts (established in 1911), and trustee of the Freda Parry Scholarship Fund Competition, both of which he has been involved with running for the last several years.

## HELLO FROM YOUR NEW MUSIC AND DRAMA FESTIVAL TEAM



Left to right: Gina Sharp (festival admin and reception), Isabel de Abreu (singing, speech and drama), Michelle Okowa (multi-section support and catering), Adrian Ho (piano) and Mike Guy (instrumental, orchestras, choirs and barbershop day and Young Musician of the Year).

You can contact any member of us by emailing [hello@miltonkeynesfestival.org](mailto:hello@miltonkeynesfestival.org)

## Our Young Musician of the Year Performers

Your announcer: Mr Adrian Boynton  
Vice President of the Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts for Dance, Music and Drama

### **Yiding Wang – Piano**

*Bach – Prelude and Fugue in B Flat*

*Albeniz – Rumores de La Caleta*

*Khachaturian – Toccata (BWV 866)*

Yiding is 12 years old and grew up in Milton Keynes. He moved to Oxford to attend Magdalen College School. He started playing the piano at age 5 and took up the organ in 2022, learning both under the guidance of Adrian Boynton. He has always nurtured an insatiable curiosity and an unwavering passion for music. This led him to achieve distinctions in all his ABRSM piano exams. In 2024, he achieved a high distinction in ABRSM Grade 4 and 5 organ. This year marks his fifth participation in Milton Keynes Festival, at which, over the years, he has won 5 gold, 13 silver, and 9 bronze medals. Under Adrian's guidance, he actively contributes to local church concerts, showcasing his piano skills. Last year, he began learning the cello at Magdalen College School with Mr. Simon Trentham. He is passionate about composing and dreams of becoming a great film composer like Hans Zimmer and John Williams. Music is his joy, and he is excited about every possibility ahead.

### **Theodora Colvin - Clarinet**

*Mozart – Clarinet Concerto 2nd Movt*

*Hurlstone – Scherzo from Four Characteristic Pieces*

Theodora is 12 and studies the clarinet with Paul Harris. She is in year 8 at Aylesbury High School and plays with the Aylesbury Youth Orchestra and Concert Band. Theodora is excited to be leading the National Children's Concert Band this year and has previously enjoyed participating in the NCO Projects Scheme. Theodora was a district finalist in the Rotary Young Musician Competition 2025 and is a finalist in the Buckinghamshire Junior Young Musician Competition 2025.

### **Reeka Chanelle Manglicmot – Violin / Piano**

*Mendelssohn – Violin Concerto in E Minor 2nd Movt*

*Kreisler / Falla – Danse Espagnole*

Reeka Chanelle Manglicmot began her musical studies with Karen Newby, playing the piano at age five and picking up the violin two years later. She won her first competition at the Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts in 2016 and has since been winning and placing in multiple classes on both instruments. Under the guidance of Enrico Alvares, she was accepted into The Purcell School under an MDS Bursary in 2022. Since then, she has been playing the violin as her primary instrument under Dr Tatjana Goldberg and has continued to play the piano as her second study under Debbie Shah. She also enjoys jazz / pop-commercial singing under Jacqui Hicks. In spring 2024, Reeka was accepted into the New Virtuosi Violin Mastercourse, which included lessons from Cihat Askin and Guy Figer. She also placed 2nd in the string Concerto / Recital class at the North London Festival of Music, Speech and Drama.

### **Adrian Tai - Piano**

*Mozart – 1st Movt from Sonata in C K 309 Allegro con spirito*

*Chopin – Fantaisie-Improptu in C Sharp Minor Op 66*

Adrian, 10, began learning the piano at 3 and the violin at 4. He earned Distinction in his ABRSM Grade 8 piano (140/150) at 8 and violin (142/150) at 9. He is now working towards a Music Diploma. He has won a few international competitions, including 3rd Prize in the 13th Henle International Piano Competition in Germany. With his twin brother, Aaron Tai, he regularly performs violin and piano duets, winning several first prizes. They also won 1st Prize in the String Chamber Music category at the 2023 Wiener Klassiker International Music Competition in Hungary. Adrian recently reached the finals of the Bromsgrove International Competition 2025 and will compete in the final round this May. Since 2021, he has won numerous first prizes at music festivals, including Birmingham, Leamington Spa, Lichfield, Dudley, and Nuneaton. He has also been recognised as the most promising piano and strings player. In 2023 and 2024, Adrian was a member of the National Children's Orchestra. He has been awarded both Music and Academic Scholarships from King Edward's School, Birmingham, and was offered a place at Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet.

### **Georgia Haydon - Flute**

*Telemann – Fantasia 12*

*Rutter – Suite Antique Aria and Waltz*

Georgia is in year 12 at Ousedale School and has been playing Flute for 9 years taught by Mary McKinnell, and studies Tenor Saxophone at school and Singing at Arts1. She is a member of Milton Keynes Youth Orchestra, Wind Orchestra and Bedfordshire Woodwind Ensemble, and helps in her school teaching younger years Music. She has recently passed her Grade 8 Flute exam with Distinction and hopes to pursue a career in Music in the future.

### **Ezra Bail - Violin**

*Handel – Sonata in D Major Allegro*

*Wieniawski – Légende*

Ezra is 16 years old, lives in Milton Keynes and is an A level Music student. Originally studying the piano from age 9 and achieving Grade 8 when he was 13, he started to teach himself to play the violin in November 2020 by watching YouTube. He later started taking lessons through MK Music Co-op with John Bass, then Euan Forrester - achieving his Grade 8 with Distinction in March 2024. He now studies with Ruth Gapp. He plays with MK Youth Orchestra and MK String Orchestra. He recently began playing with a Quartet under the guidance of Julian Pentz and is a member of the Student Music Leader council for MK Music Service. Ezra is an enthusiastic and talented composer and had the privilege of having the work he composed for the Commonwealth Music Relay performed by MK Youth Orchestra last year. He plays the piano at church for both the congregation and choir. He expects that music will continue to be an important part of his life.

## Aaron Tai

*Bartók – Dance in Bulgarian Rhythm No 6*

*Mendelssohn – Rondo Capriccioso Op 14*

Aaron, 10, began studying piano at 3 and violin at 4. By 8, he achieved Distinction in his ABRSM Grade 8 piano exam, followed by another Distinction in violin at 9. He is currently pursuing a Music Diploma. He regularly performs violin and piano duets with his twin brother, Adrian Tai, winning multiple first prizes. Their achievements include 1st Prize in the String Chamber Music category at the 2023 Wiener Klassiker International Music Competition in Hungary. Aaron also won 1st Prize in the Under-12 category of the regional round of the EPTA Competition 2025 and will compete in the regional final this March.

Since 2021, he has won numerous first prizes in music festivals, including Birmingham, Leamington Spa, Lichfield, Dudley, and Nuneaton. Aaron has been recognised as the most promising piano and strings player in several festivals. Aaron was a member of the National Children's Orchestra in 2023 and 2024. He has been awarded both Music and Academic Scholarships from King Edward's School, Birmingham, and was also offered a place at Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet.

## Sean Lau - Violin

*Tartini / Kreisler – Variations on a Theme of Corelli*

*Smetana – Aus der Heimat*

Sean has been playing violin since the age of five and he is now 12 years old. From 2022 to 2024, he was learning violin in the Royal College of Music Junior Department. He is currently taught by Joshua Fisher a professor at the Royal Academy of Music. Immersed in his musical pursuits, Sean finds joy playing in string orchestras and chamber groups. In 2022, he gained the Janet Tinbergen Memorial Award in the String Recital Classes at the Oxford Music Festival. In 2023, he was awarded the Junior Strings Challenge Cup at the Sutton Music Festival. Sean's enthusiasm and unwavering passion for playing the violin shine through in his performances.

## Guest Performances

### Calliope Flute Quartet

*Castérède – Flûtes En Vacances 4th Movt*    *Lennon / McCartney – Eleanor Rigby*

### Rosie Freear – Milton Keynes Young Singer of the Year 2025

*Pergolesi – Se tu m'ami, se sospiri*    *Mechem – Fair Robin I Love*

## FESTIVAL SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

[www.miltonkeynesfestival.org](http://www.miltonkeynesfestival.org)

[www.kawai.co.uk](http://www.kawai.co.uk)    [www.bonnersmusic.co.uk](http://www.bonnersmusic.co.uk)



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**2026 Festival Dates, Venues and Adjudicators**  
**All at The Venue, Walton High MK7 7WH**

SPEECH AND DRAMA Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 February	Jenny Thornton Rebecca Vines
MUSIC SOLOISTS AND SMALL ENSEMBLES Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 March	Piano: Jena Pang Graham Fitch Gill Johnston Instrumental: Liz Childs Voice: Sarah Jefferies Nicola Jane Kemp
ENSEMBLES, CHOIRS & BARBERSHOP Saturday 14 March	Liz Childs
MILTON KEYNES YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR 2026 Sunday 15 March	Liz Childs

**FESTIVAL COMMITTEE**

President: Mr Hilary Davan Wetton MA DMus	Vice Presidents: Mrs Jocelyn Lord    Mr Adrian Boynton
Festival Chair: Pat Haig	
Hon Sec: Janice Hughes	Hon Treasurer: Kris Taylor
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Adrian Ho (Piano)	Kris Taylor
Mike Guy (Instrumental / Young Musician)	Janice Hughes
Isabel Sousa (Voice / Speech and Drama)	Keeva Buckley
Gina Sharp (Festival Admin / Reception)	Keeley Kubiak
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If you are interested in joining the team, please email <a href="mailto:hello@miltonkeynesfestival.org">hello@miltonkeynesfestival.org</a> for more information.	

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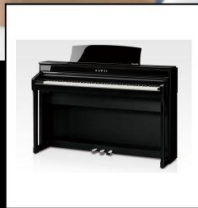
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