

Anne Liu

Anne Liu, a distinguished Young Steinway Artist, has graced prestigious stages worldwide, including Carnegie Hall, the John F. Kennedy Center, and Steinway Hall. Liu was a 2019 Presidential Scholar in the Arts, honored by the President of the United States at the White House. She has won top prizes in numerous prestigious competitions, including being a three-time Grand Prize winner at the Musical Merit Foundation Competition and recipient of Full Scholarships to the 2019 and 2023 Aspen Music Festival and School. A Finalist Winner at the National YoungArts Competition, Liu's accolades extend to the Bosendorfer and Yamaha USASU International Piano Competition and more. She is a frequent collaborator with orchestras like the La Jolla Symphony and Ningbo Symphony Orchestra. Currently she is studying at the New England Conservatory under Alessio Bax's guidance.



Søren Pedersen

Søren Pedersen, baritone, is pursuing a master's degree in voice at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), where he has performed as Tarquinius in *The Rape of Lucretia* and Dr. Rappaccini in *La Hija de Rappaccini* by Catán. Professionally, Pedersen has performed with San Diego Opera (SDO) as Prince Yamadori (2024) and Aldeano 1 in *El Último Sueño de Frida y Diego* (2023); he is returning this fall as Schaunard in *La Bohème*. A graduate of Point Loma Nazarene University, Søren's concert appearances include solos in Handel's *Messiah*, Schubert's *Mass in G*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, and the Bach passions.



Kevin Song

Kevin Song, 21 years old, currently attends Stanford University, where he studies with Stephen Harrison and is the 2024 recipient of the Stanford Music Department's Costanza Prize in Cello Performance. He began his cello studies at age 3 and made his orchestral debut with the Fullerton College Orchestra at age 9. Since then, he has been featured multiple times on NPR's From the Top, and has also performed on KUSI-TV's Good Morning San Diego. Kevin was selected as a Principal Cellist for Carnegie Hall's National Youth Orchestra (NYO-USA) on its '18 Europe Tour, and joined its '19 pandemic virtual ensemble. He also served as Principal Cellist for the San Diego Youth Symphony (SDYS) and won its '18 Concerto Competition, subsequently performing as a soloist with the SDYS. Kevin is a '21 Musical Merit Foundation protégé, named with the Jean Moe Award in Cello. He has also been awarded by the National YoungArts Foundation, La Jolla Symphony & Chorus, and Peninsula Symphony. Beyond his cello studies, Kevin is also pursuing a degree in Computer Science, and sings tenor in an R&B a cappella group.



Christian Gonzales

Violinist Christian Gonzales has performed in venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Da Camera Society, Juilliard Chamberfest, the La Jolla Music Society, and Tanglewood. Winner of the Atwater Kent Competition, he has also achieved awards from the Musical Merit Foundation, La Jolla, Grossmont, and the UCLA All Stars competitions. Christian has been the concertmaster of the UCLA Philharmonia and associate concertmaster of the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra and the Juilliard Orchestra. He holds degrees from Juilliard and UCLA where he studied with Areta Zhulla, Movses Pogossian, and Varty Manouelian. Christian is also busy building his teaching studio in San Diego.



Carly Cummings

Carly Cummings is a San Diego based soprano who has performed in a wide variety of productions throughout the country. Carly has most recently been on stage performing La cugina in San Diego Opera's production of Madama Butterfly as a part of the 2023-2024 season. Operatic roles also include Berta in Il Barbiere di Siviglia with Opera Neo, Magda in Puccini's La Rondine with Peabody Conservatory, Pamina in Mozart's Die Zauberflöte with Music on Site, Juliette in Gounod's Roméo et Juliette with Midwest Institute of Opera. Carly has been a member of the San Diego Opera chorus since the 2022-2023 season. She holds a Master of Music degree from the Peabody Conservatory and a Bachelor of Music degree from San Diego State University.



Caden Jiang

Beginning violin lessons at age 5 in Plano, Texas, Caden Jiang is a 17-year-old violinist currently studying under Michael and Irina Tseitlin. He has participated in numerous competitions, receiving the 1st Place prize and Chet & June Schmidt Award in the H.B. Goodlin Scholarship Competition, 2nd Place in the La Jolla Young Artists Competition, and 2nd Place in the state-wide MTAC VOCE competition. Over the past two summers, Caden has trained with other musicians, playing in the 2022 Young Artists Orchestra at Boston University's Tanglewood Institute and serving as the concertmaster of Interlochen's World Youth Symphony Orchestra.



Emily Weinberg

Hailed for her rich, beautiful voice, mezzo soprano Emily Weinberg is an artist to watch. This past year has been an exciting period in her budding career, amassing wins in prestigious competitions, including the Musical Merit Foundation of San Diego, the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus Young Artist Competition, and the Metropolitan Opera's Laffont Competition (San Diego District). Emily's recent successes are highlighted by her San Diego Opera debut in *Madama Butterfly* as Kate Pinkerton, the titular role of *Carmen* with the Pacific Lyric Association, and her role of Toledo in *The Falling* and the *Rising* with Bodhi Tree Concerts.



Alexandra Burch

Alexandra Burch began learning how to play the piano from her mom, Karina Burch at the age of five. At the age of seven, she began piano lessons with Krzysztof Brzuza. In February of 2024, Alexandra won first place at the San Diego State University Concerto Competition, and performed with the university's orchestra in April 2024. Alexandra has taken masterclasses from renowned pianists all over the world, such as Mamiko Suda, Isata Kanneh-Mason, Sofya Gulyak, Nikolai Lugansky at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory, Piotr Paleczny, Stephen Hough, and Awadagin Pratt. Alexandra recently graduated from San Diego State University, under the guidance of Dr. Tina Chong, and will be attending USC's Thornton School of Music for her Master's program.



Erica Wang

Erica Wang is a flutist from San Diego, California, and is finishing her first year at Stanford University. She is a Haynes Young Artist, and past honors include performing on NPR's From The Top and awards in the National Flute Association, the Music Center's Spotlight, the National YoungArts Foundation, the Goodlin Scholarship Competition, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition, and more. In 2022, she was one of four flutists in the National Youth Orchestra (NYO-USA) and toured Europe under the direction of Daniel Harding. In 2023, she attended the Domaine Forget International Music Festival. In the summer of 2024, she will be attending the Aspen Music Festival under the Musical Merit Fellowship.



Amanda Olea

Mexican-American soprano Amanda Olea is celebrated for her enchanting voice and remarkable high register, captivating audiences across the United States and internationally. Notable for her debut season in San Diego, she astounded in La Jolla Symphony and Chorus's opener, showcasing her talent with Barber's Knoxville: Summer of 1915. Joining the Santa Fe Opera as an Apprentice Artist, she graced productions like Carmen and Falstaff. An advocate for new works, she participated in Cincinnati Opera's Opera Fusion: New Works workshop. Equally at home on the concert stage, she's been a soloist with various ensembles. Amanda holds a master's from the University of Cincinnati and pursues her doctoral in musical arts, building on her undergraduate studies at San Diego State University.



Nathan Haghgoo

Nathan Haghgoo is currently an undergraduate at the University of California, Davis. He has played flute for 11 years, studying with Dr. September Payne, with Dr. Elena Yarritu, and now with Stacey Pelinka. He has won awards such as the San Diego 2016 VOCE Ensemble, 2020 San Diego VOCE Intermediate Solo Winds, 2022 Musical Merit Foundation Award and the 2024 UC Davis Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition. He has performed with ensembles such as the San Diego Youth Symphony, California All-State Band, and UC Davis Symphony Orchestra. Outside of music, Nathan is a passionate scientist pursuing Chemistry.



Aiden Kaplan

Aidan Kaplan began his piano instruction at the age of five with Lori Bastien. From 2020-2023, Aidan was a student of Prof. Kevin Fitz-Gerald (USC). Currently an incoming Sophomore at Oberlin Conservatory, Aidan studies with Professor Alvin Chow. Aidan has placed first honors in the Crescendo International Youth Music Competition, third in the American Protégé International Piano and Strings Competition, first in Best Bartok Performance (Great Composers Competition), and more. Locally, Aidan has been a finalist in the Southern California Jr. Bach Festival, MTAC piano Sonata Contests, and MTAC Certificate of Merit Panel programs. He has attended the Amalfi Coast Music Festival and Interlochen Arts Academy's summer sessions. Aidan privately teaches piano and music theory to students of all ages in San Diego.

