



News Release

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APAP | NYC 2020 Showcases New Class of Emerging Classical Music Stars Free Performance in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall on January 13, 2020

Washington, DC (November 14, 2019) – As part of the Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) annual conference, APAP | NYC 2020, five exceptional young classical music artists and ensembles will be showcased at a free concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City on January 13, as part of APAP’s Young Performers Career Advancement Program (YPCA). The 2020 participants—Hanzhi Wang, Invoke, Ivalas Quartet, Jiji Kim, and Omer Quartet—will also receive business training in the performing arts industry and guidance for navigating the next steps of their careers. The up-and-coming musicians were chosen through a competitive process by a team of industry experts on APAP’s Classical Connections Committee.

“For 23 years, the YPCA program has allowed emerging musicians to reflect on the balance of being a performer and a young professional,” said APAP president and CEO Mario Garcia Durham. “The participants will strategize about their long-term goals in career development and networking alongside mentors and peers shaping the future of classical music. The Carnegie Hall showcase is a testament to the talent of these rising stars, and we are proud to provide a platform for their work.”

YPCA was launched in 1996 as a program of APAP’s Classical Connections initiative to support emerging classical music artists during the formative stages of their careers. After a competitive application process, the selected artists attend APAP | NYC as special guests. At the conference, artists participate in a professional development track tailored to fit the unique needs of artists in the early part of their careers and provide a practical overview of the presenting and touring industry. They also receive expert instruction in the development of audience engagement skills.

“Each year, I look forward to working with the artists selected to participate in the Young Performers Career Advancement Program and this year is no exception,” said Dr. Nathaniel Zeisler, director of community engagement and career development at the Colburn School in Los Angeles, and 2020 YPCA facilitator. “The 2020 cohort of artists are some of the most



exciting and accomplished in the field, and I look forward to sharing four days of intensive discussions and professional development with this group.”

The musicians will perform in front of global arts leaders, performing arts presenters, managers, record company representatives and agents in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, from 6-8 p.m., January 13, 2020. The event is open to the public, and tickets for the free concert are available at the door. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

About the YPCA Participants:

Hanzhi Wang

Praised for her captivating stage presence and performances that are technically and musically masterful, the groundbreaking young musician Hanzhi Wang is the only accordionist to ever win a place on the roster of Young Concert Artists in its 59-year history. Other firsts include being named Musical America “New Artist of the Month,” an interview and performance on the 2,145th episode of New York WQXR’s Young Artists Showcase as the first solo accordionist on the program, the Naxos label’s first ever solo accordion CD, “On the Path to H.C. Andersen, which was nominated for the prestigious Danish Radio P2 Prize in 2019.

Invoke

Described by one pretty important radio guy as “not classical...but not not classical” (SiriusXM), Invoke continues to successfully dodge even the most valiant attempts at genre classification, including bluegrass, Appalachian fiddle tunes, jazz, and minimalism. Fueled by their passion for storytelling, Invoke weaves all of these styles together to form a unique contemporary repertoire, featuring original works composed by and for the group. This passion also inspired Invoke’s ongoing commissioning initiative “American Postcards,” in which they draw on composers from all backgrounds to help tell the stories of America.

Ivalas Quartet

Founded in Ann Arbor in 2016, the Ivalas Quartet is composed of violinists Reuben Kebede and Anita Dumar, violist Aimée McAnulty, and cellist Pedro Sánchez. The quartet won first prize in the 2019 WDAV Young Artists Chamber Music Competition, first prize in the 2018 Briggs Chamber Music Competition, and was a semifinalist group at both the M-Prize and Concert Artists Guild competitions. Ivalas regularly performs at schools, museums, shelters, and many other community centers. This year the quartet was privileged to attend the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, as well as the Aspen Music Festival’s Center for Advanced Quartet Studies.



Jiji Kim

Applauded by the Calgary Herald as “...talented, sensitive...brilliant,” Jiji is an adventurous artist on both acoustic and electric guitar. Recent highlights include a wide array of venues, including: Carnegie Hall, David Geffen hall, Lincoln Center, National Sawdust, Krannert Center, Le Poisson Rouge, and 92nd Street Y. A passionate advocate of new music, Jiji has premiered works by numerous composers—including Paul Lansky, Joao Luiz, Natalie Dietterich, Molly Joyce, Kristis Auznieks, and Gulli Björnsson. American Composers Orchestra is commissioning a new guitar concerto by Hilary Purrington, to be premiered by Jiji in 2019 Fall. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Guitar at Arizona State University.

Omer Quartet

Comprising of Mason Yu, Erica Tursi, Jinsun Hong, and Alex Cox, the Omer Quartet is a leader among today’s young string quartets. Most recently first prizewinners of the Young Concert Artists Auditions, the quartet came into prominence in 2013 when it received Grand Prize at the Fischhoff National Competition. They further received top prizes at major European competitions including Borciani, Trondheim, and Bordeaux. The quartet inaugurated a Music for Food concert series in the metro-DC area to support local hunger relief. They have been appointed Visiting Fellows at Yale University and are completing their Doctorate Degrees at the University of Maryland.

About the Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP)

The Association of Performing Arts Professionals, based in Washington, D.C., is the national service, advocacy and membership organization dedicated to developing and supporting a robust performing arts presenting field and the professionals who work within it. Our more than 1,700 national and international members represent leading performing arts centers, municipal and university performance facilities, nonprofit performing arts centers, culturally specific organizations, foreign governments, as well as artist agencies, managers, touring companies, and national consulting practices that serve the field, and a growing roster of self-presenting artists. As a leader in the field, APAP works to effect change through advocacy, professional development, resource sharing and civic engagement. APAP is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization governed by a volunteer board of directors and led by President & CEO Mario Garcia Durham. In addition to presenting the annual APAP|NYC conference - the world's leading forum and marketplace for the performing arts (Jan. 10-14, 2020) - APAP continues to be the industry's leading resource, knowledge and networking destination for the advancement of performing arts presenting.



About APAP|NYC

APAP|NYC is the world's premier gathering of more than 3,600 performing arts professionals in New York City at the New York Hilton Midtown and Sheraton New York Times Square.

APAP|NYC features more than 1000 world-class artist showcases held around the city, an EXPO Hall boasting nearly 400 booths, dozens of professional development sessions, A-list keynote speakers, and pre-conference forums, many of which are free and open to the public and members. See more conference information at apapnyc.org, and APAP membership information at apap365.org.

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