



MARCO POLO  
BY GRYPHON



MARCO POLO BY GRYPHON & OAKRIDGE MUSIC STUDIOS

# Spring Music Recital 2024

Saturday, April 27 2024 • 3pm  
MARCO POLO BY GRYPHON PRESENTATION CENTRE  
2762 Granville Street Vancouver BC

*Marco Polo by Gryphon and Oakridge Music Studios* unite for an enchanting performance by blending pop, jazz, contemporary, and classical music. Experience creative brilliance and nurturing of youth on this captivating journey.

## *Gryphon Development*

Gryphon Development redefines how art shapes neighborhoods. Our latest project, *Marco Polo by Gryphon*, emphasizes creative excellence, enriching Oakridge's future cultural landscape.

## *Oakridge Music Studios*

Nestled in the heart of Oakridge District, Oakridge Music Studios fosters creativity and empowers individuals to explore their musical talents, instilling an appreciation for creativity.



# Performer Bios

---

**ALLEGRA  
ARIA-NEUMEYER  
(AGE 11)**

Allegra, a young artist with a unique and soulful voice, loves to perform. She has a profound appreciation for its transformative power in everyday life. From navigating the rigors of academia to finding solace in the midst of daily challenges, music has been Allegra's steadfast companion and source of inspiration. It serves as a constant reminder of the beauty and resilience found in melodies, rhythms, and harmonies, enriching every moment with its presence.

**Fun fact:** A natural born leader, you can also find her organizing our studio recordings or behind the scenes at our studio performances to keep us organized. Get ready, Broadway! Here comes Allegra!

---

**AMELIA RENNER  
(AGE 9)**

Amelia, is a gifted composer, reminiscent of a modern-day Mozart. She hears melodies dancing in her mind's ear, effortlessly bringing them to life. Her dedication to her craft shines through in her remarkable achievements, boasting a flawless record of perfect scores across her RCM theory exams.

Today, Amelia takes the stage to present her latest composition, a testament to her musical genius. She will also invite the audience to join her on a journey through her composition process. Amelia weaves melodies into existence, showcasing her ability to create magic from simple prompts.

**Fun Fact:** She loves to dance and she also dreams of authoring a book to share her imagination with the world. She also adores her cat!

---

**ANNE SHI  
(AGE 13)**

Anne is a multifaceted junior high school student with many passions and diverse interests. Her rhythmic prowess extends to both drums and piano, where she effortlessly transitions between the structured world of classical music and the improvisational nature of jazz. Anne is particularly fond of both classical and jazz piano, and she is currently working on RCM Grade 10 piano. She recently completed her Jazz Piano Diploma from West London University. In her own words, "I love to transition between different styles of music, from the structured world of classical compositions to the free-flowing improvisational nature of jazz. While I am involved in various activities, I particularly enjoy those that involve teamwork. Collaborating with others not only enhances the experience but also fosters a sense of camaraderie and shared accomplishment."

**Fun Fact:** Whether she's in the saddle for horseback riding, bringing her A-game on the volleyball court, strategizing with her fellow debaters, or mastering the intricacies of badminton, Anne thrives on the unique challenges each activity presents.

---



# Performer Bios

---

**CLARA WAN  
(AGE 14)**

Clara, a talented pianist, has been studying at O-Music Studios for eleven years, following the Royal Conservatory of Music curriculum. She's achieved notable success in piano performance, including recitals at YVR airport and Carnegie Hall at age 7. Beyond piano, Clara excels in ballet, karate, singing, and literature, with achievements ranging from dance competition wins to publications as a poet and fiction writer. She graduated as valedictorian from elementary school and currently serves on the council for her high school's Synergy Program. Per Clara: "Music is music and it has always been a way to express feelings and communicate, influence."

**Fun Fact:** Clara has a dog, enjoys dancing and singing, and does not like vegetables!

---

**DANIEL KIM  
(AGE 14)**

Daniel is a living testament to the power of passion, dedication, and boundless creativity in the world of music. Despite having played the piano for less than three years, Daniel has achieved feats most can only dream of. From mastering the highest levels of the RCM standard—ARCT performance to earning a Jazz Piano Diploma from West London University, his journey exemplifies the epitome of musical excellence. He is a versatile composer across jazz and classical genres. He is most passionate about the classical repertoire finding immense joy and fulfillment in playing classical pieces composed by masters such as Chopin and Liszt.

**CLASS  
PRESIDENT**

Daniel's dedication to excellence is evident as he also works to excel in audio engineering, further enriching his already impressive repertoire. His versatility extends even further as he has also embarked on learning a completely new instrument, classical guitar.

**Fun Fact:** Daniel will soon grace the stage in New York City, invited by a former Juilliard Faculty member and radio host to perform for a MASTERCLASS, amidst great anticipation.

---

**ELLA YAN  
(AGE 12)**

Ella commenced her musical journey at the age of 5, delving into piano lessons which she pursued until the age of 10. Subsequently, she embarked on vocal training at O-Music, a journey she continues to this day. Her musical preferences encompass a wide array of genres, with a particular affinity for k-pop, j-pop, mandopop, and R&B. She finds solace in listening to melancholic melodies, finding them to be both relaxing and calming. Beyond her musical pursuits, Ella indulges in a diverse range of hobbies. She enjoys engaging in badminton, dancing, and singing.

**Fun Fact:** Don't be surprised if you see Ella taking nocturnal strolls, jamming to music in the car with her father, and filling her belly with culinary delights!

---



# Performer Bios

---

## HUGO LAU (AGE 10)

Hugo is known for his fun-loving nature and contagious humor that brightens up any room. Hugo's passion for music knows no bounds; whether he's singing along to his favourite tunes or discovering new melodies on the piano, his love for all genres of music shines through. With an insatiable curiosity, he's always eager to soak up new knowledge and experiences, making every day an adventure.

**Fun Fact:** When he's not hitting the high notes, you can find Hugo's athletic prowess on the soccer field, where his enthusiasm for sports knows no bounds.

---

## JESS-YI CHAN (AGE 14)

Jess is a talented artist who plays many instruments such as the violin, flute, piano, cello, and saxophone. Jess is an amazing artist who can play both classical and jazz music. She is also part of the book development team at O-Music Studios. According to Jess, "I like music because I am not very good with words. It is a way to express myself and my thoughts."

**Fun Fact:** Jess-Yi is also a force in the kitchen and has a passion for baking. Ladurée, take notice, her specialty is macarons!

---

## JO-YI CHAN (AGE 15)

Jo started playing piano at an early age and is currently finishing her RCM Level 10 certificate. Most recently, she found another avenue for her music and started singing as she has a voice that is smooth and soothing to her listeners. According to Jo, "Music provides me with self-expression and a creative outlet". She also loves to dance and has been in a company group, competing since she was ten.

**Fun Fact:** Jo only started singing a couple of months ago and is making her Singing Debut today!

---



# Performer Bios

---

## **JUN-YI CHAN (AGE 9)**

Jun is a budding musician, playing the piano, drums, and the recorder. Her love for music also extends to teaching other kids music theory. She is also a brilliant visual artist, on the verge of illustrating and publishing her first music book. Jun enjoys ice skating, skiing, and reading. Per Jun aka “Jun-bug”, “Music is the key to collaboration and cooperation. It can teach you discipline by working hard.”

**Fun Fact:** As the youngest sibling of three, Jun is playful and able to bring smiles to everyone in the studio with her carefree and easy-going nature.

---

## **KAYA MEW (AGE 14)**

Kaya Mew began piano lessons at age 4 with Yamaha, later exploring RCM piano exams then took a turn into jazz piano and earned a DipLCM certification. She showcased her talents at the KPU International Music Festival and composed pieces like "Starry Night" and "Summertime Blues." Kaya is also a competitive gymnast with Phoenix Gymnastics and a swimmer with Percy Norman Swim Club. Academically, she excels in math, receiving top scores at L'École Bilingue and serving as a student council representative.

**Fun Fact:** Kaya performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City on March 29th, 2024.

---

## **KENNETH KO (AGE 9)**

Kenneth has a flair for music and focuses his time playing the piano and drums. In addition to his musical pursuits, he loves athletics and is a budding tennis player. Kenneth is also committed to using his talents to support charitable causes and has participated in the Celebrity Broadway Extravaganza Fundraisers. With a bright future ahead and a love for both sports and music, Kenneth embodies a young individual with a passion for exploring and excelling in various areas of life.

**Fun Fact:** At just 5 years old, he made his musical solo piano debut performance at the vibrant Times Square in New York City!

---



# Performer Bios

---

## KENZIE KWOK (AGE 10)

Kenzie was born ready to perform! Her first love is dance, then music, art, and ultimately, any chance to be on stage. She plays piano and sings at O-Music and loves her time there with her fellow artists. Outside of O-Music, Kenzie is already an accomplished dancer part of a competitive dance group and has won many awards, scholarships, including first place in her Under 12 category for her solos the past two years and 3 competitions in a row. Kenzie was scouted by World Performers Canada and will represent Canada at Dance World Cup 2024 in Prague this summer and was also invited to join a Hollywood Summer Tour with a few So You Can Dance choreographers at the helm. For her artwork, Kenzie became a published artist as a 2023 National Truth and Reconciliation Honoree and received her award in Winnipeg along with 12 other entries selected amongst thousands of entries across Canada. A highly energized individual, you will always find Kenzie engrossed in the arts, telling a joke to make people smile, and.. dancing!

**Fun Fact:** Watch Kenzie dance at Dance World Cup 2024 in Prague in a solo Hip Hop, small group Jazz, and small group Contemporary. Good luck, Kenzie!

---

## MAGNOLIA KEMBLE (AGE 15)

Magnolia's journey into the world of jazz was unexpected yet thrilling. From her early years, she displayed a natural inclination for music, often improvising and composing her own pieces. This unwavering urge to create music now allows her to infuse classical pieces with a fresh twist, incorporating jazz riffs into her performances.

Reflecting on her passion, Magnolia expresses, "I love playing the piano, but jazz holds a special place in my heart".

**Fun Fact:** When she's not jazzing it up, see her artistic expression through her visual art. Magnolia is a true artist, on the stage and through her canvas.

---

## NATHAN CHEUNG (AGE 15)

Nathan is a multi-talented individual with a passion for music. As a skilled pianist, he loves classical music, Bond themes, and Gospel music, and his soulful playing touches the heart. He has recently ventured into music production, showcasing his creativity and talent. Nathan also has an eye for electronics and spatial design, building his own keyboards from scratch with a keen eye for detail and innovation. He's also picked up a love for guitars, exploring new dimensions of creativity.

**Fun Fact:** Nate is a self-proclaimed foodie who enjoys cooking and trying new recipes. He takes pride in making burgers from scratch, cooking them to a perfect medium rare, and whipping up homemade pasta sauce. Nate is a talented and creative individual who brings enthusiasm and dedication to all his pursuits.

---



# Performer Bios

---

## RENEE CHAN (AGE 17)

Renee Chan holds the London College of Music LLCM Performers' diploma, the Royal Conservatory of Music ARCT Performers' diploma, and the Elementary Piano Pedagogy Certificate. At the age of 9, Renee made her Carnegie Hall debut as a first-place winner of the 2016 Crescendo International Music Competition. She performed in the BC Registered Music Teachers' Association 2017 Student Performers' Guild Festival honor recital as a trophy winner in the Impressionistic Intermediate class. In 2021, Renee participated in the BCCM Musical Festival and received gold standings in all four diploma and piano concerto classes. She performed with the Vancouver Chamber Orchestra, playing the first movement of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 in C major, Op. 15, in the 2022 Gifted Artists Concerto Gala at the Chan Centre for Performing Arts. In the summer of 2023, she started her piano teaching journey.

**Fun Fact:** Renee has explored music composition since the age of 14, composing piano works such as "Waltz in G major, Op. 2, 'Grace,'" "A Glass of Glee," and "Jungle Fiesta." Her musical inspirations include Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, and Strauss II. Renee plays the French horn in her school's senior concert band and the keyboard in Stage Band. Outside of music, she is a staff and secretariat member at Model United Nations conferences, an environmental writer, and a badminton player.

**Side note:** Congratulations Renee for being a recipients of the Presidential Scholarship from UBC!

---

## RHYME SHAY TORIBIO (AGE 7)

In Rhyme's words, "When I practice Music with my dad, it makes me happy. When my mom listens to my songs, it makes me proud." Rhyme is an aspiring actress and singer with a passion for piano and singing. Despite her young age, she has already made appearances in professional commercials, showcasing her talent and potential in the entertainment industry. Recently, she embarked on her journey with piano, eager to explore and develop her musical abilities further. With her enthusiasm for music and performance, Rhyme is poised to achieve great things in the future.

**Fun Fact:** Look out for Rhyme on her next commercial stint and know that you saw her perform here first at the Marco Polo Show!

---





# Performer Bios

---

## **SLOANE KAN (AGE 12)**

Sloane is an accomplished pianist and a “Rock-Star Sightreader”, who collaborates well with other musicians. She enjoys sketching and painting during her free time. Music is a way for her to express herself without words. It allows her to tap into different emotions which is why she enjoys many different genres such as classical, jazz and contemporary music. Sloane thinks “Music is a way to collaborate with other musicians and to have fun. It is also a way to express your thoughts and feelings without words. I love music because you can show your inner self in your own, artistic way.”

**Fun Fact:** When Sloane is not completing her university -credited piano exams, performing or collaborating, you can find her teaching her own theory classes every Thursday.

---

## **VANESSA SUGAR (AGE 17)**

Vanessa is a singer-songwriter who got her start singing with the Bach Children's Choir at an early age. She has studied classical voice through the Royal Conservatory of Music and competed in the Kiwanis Music Festival over several years. She is currently a Grade 12 student at Lord Byng High School in the Arts Mini Program (Choral) and will be attending the Vancouver Community College Music Program in September 2024. Vanessa is a musician who breaks the boundaries of genres. Vanessa's love of singing began with opera and classical music. With that foundation, she has explored pop, jazz, rock, punk, country and even metal, adding her own unique twists to classics as well as writing her own music.

**Fun Fact:** Get ready to be immersed with some of Vanessa's own compositions and captivating voice as she takes the stage and showcases some of her extraordinary musical talents!

---

## **ZIHAN DANG (AGE 16)**

**PRESIDENT OF THE  
STUDENT  
TEACHERS  
ASSOCIATION**

Zihan, more famously known as Yoyo, is a multifaceted individual with a diverse range of accomplishments and interests. Holding a university-level diploma in Jazz Piano as well as a University level theory accomplishment with first-class honors distinction. Yoyo also serves as a tutor in theory and excels in piano performance. Additionally, this high achieving student, has played a significant role in the development of international music education curriculum and is actively involved in debate activities. Outside of the academic realm, Yoyo is a skilled composer and passionate about teaching.

**Fun Fact:** Yoyo has been an avid snowboarder since 2017 and holds a Level 1 instructor certification, demonstrating a commitment to outdoor activities and sports.

---





Program  
3pm

A FIFTH OF BEETHOVEN

CLARA WAN, NICOLE ASADON,  
MIKE DEVISON

---

BLANK SPACE / STYLE

VANESSA SUGAR,  
STEVE YANG

---

AT LAST

KENZIE KWOK, KAYA MEW, JESS-YI CHAN,  
ANNE SHI, NICOLE ASADON

---

ROUTE 66

MAGNOLIA KEMBLE,  
MIKE DEVISON

---

JU HUA TAI

RENEE CHAN,  
DAVID SZIGETI

---

YOYO'S CAFE

YOYO DANG, JESS-YI CHAN,  
MIKE DEVISON

---





Program  
3pm

FLY ME TO THE MOON

VANESSA SUGAR, SLOANE KAN,  
NICOLE ASADON, MIKE DEVISON

---

BLUES FOR BIG SCOTIA

KAYA MEW,  
MIKE DEVISON

---

APHRODITE

VANESSA SUGAR

---

I WISH YOU LOVE

ALLEGRA ARIA-NEUMEYER,  
NICOLE ASADON

---

HIT THE ROAD JACK

HUGO, KENZIE, JO-YI, JESS-YI, JUN-YI,  
SLOANE, NICOLE, VANESSA, STEVE

---

UPTOWN FUNK

HUGO LAU,  
STEVE YANG

---



“We are the music makers, and we  
are the dreamers of dreams”

- *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

Thank You

Music production and songwriter credits:  
*Jess-Yi Chan, Jayden Ko, Daniel Kim, Lucas Venugopal*



MUSIC  
studios



GRYPHON

MARCO POLO  
BY GRYPHON

