
Benett Tsai – Short Biography 26–27

Australian cellist Benett Tsai, praised for his “electrifying” artistry (Süddeutsche Zeitung), has gained recognition as a compelling soloist and chamber musician performing on major stages worldwide. A top prizewinner at the 2022 Grand Prix Emanuel Feuermann in Berlin and recipient of the 2026 Prix Jean-Nicolas Firmenich at the Verbier Festival, he joined the Young Concert Artists roster after winning the 2023 YCA Susan Wadsworth International Auditions in New York. His subsequent recital was listed by New York Classical Review as one of the best debuts of 2024, and he was named a VC Artist on The Violin Channel.

In the 2026-27 season, Benett performs across North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. Highlights include debuts with the Malaysian Philharmonic, Tasmanian Symphony, Göttinger Symphonieorchester, and a return to the Queensland Symphony. He also appears in recitals at Hong Kong City Hall with Aristo Sham and The Phillips Collection with Radu Ratoi, as well as Carnegie Hall and Chamber Music San Francisco as part of YCA on Tour.

As a soloist, Benett has appeared with the Berlin Radio Symphony, Sinfonia Lahti, Kammerphilharmonie Metamorphosen Berlin, Australian Chamber Orchestra Academy, with conductors such as Esa-Pekka Salonen and Umberto Clerici. He has also performed at The Kennedy Center, Verbier Festival, Lincoln Center, and has collaborated with renowned artists including Emanuel Ax and Jean-Yves Thibaudet.

Born in 2003, Benett began playing the cello at age five with his uncle, Thomas Tsai and currently studies with Clive Greensmith at The Colburn School in Los Angeles. He plays on a 1719 Giuseppe Guarneri ‘filius Andreae’ cello, on loan from a generous benefactor.