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YCA on Tour 2026-2027 | Piano Trio

YCA on Tour is an extraordinary and unique chamber music touring ensemble that is made up of the incredible talent of both current YCA artists and esteemed alumni from the YCA family. This unique initiative brings together the brightest emerging musicians and the seasoned veterans who have already made a significant impact in the classical music world. YCA on Tour programs offer audiences a truly remarkable musical experience; featuring ensembles of unique instrumentation playing repertoire that spans a wide range of musical styles and genres that is rarely heard on tour. Each concert is thoughtfully designed to highlight the strengths and individuality of each performer. Rather than more commonly heard ad hoc ensembles, YCA on Tour groups are established ensembles that not only plan programs multiple seasons in advance, but also rehearse and explore the repertoire intensely over an unusually long rehearsal period prior to any touring activity. This investment in the rehearsal process results in profound musical discoveries that offer audiences astoundingly high-quality performances of rarely heard works.

Following a March 2023 sneak peak of the inaugural YCA on Tour group at Merkin Hall in New York City, an ensemble of five YCA artists embarked on a twelve city tour presenting a program of works for voices, violin, cello, and piano with venues and presenters across the country including the Asheville Chamber Music Society, Clarion Concerts, Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, Newport Classical, Utsey Chamber Music Series at Clemson University, Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, BIG ARTS Sanibel Island, and more.

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Cellist **James Baik** has been described as an artist with “an undeniable authority,” and one possessing “a real warmth emerging in lyricism” by *Le Soir*, after his astounding performance at the 2021 Queen Elisabeth competition. Winner of the 2023 YCA Susan Wadsworth International Auditions and recipient of the Paul A. Fish Memorial Prize and the Bridgehampton Chamber Music Prize, James is a YCA Jacobs Fellow.

James has recently appeared as soloist in Beethoven’s *Triple Concerto* with the Mobile Symphony alongside fellow YCA artists Benjamin Baker and Chaeyoung Park, and in Shostakovich’s *Cello Concerto No. 1* with the Hamilton College Symphony Orchestra. He has also been featured in recital and chamber music performances with the Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival, BIG ARTS Sanibel Island, the Buffalo Chamber Music Society, Hayden’s Ferry Chamber Music Series, and on the YCA Series at The Morgan Library & Museum in New York. Upcoming highlights include his debuts at the Kennedy Center and at New York’s Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center, as well as a return to Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall for YCA’s Season Finale.

An active chamber musician, James plays as a member of the Galvin Cello Quartet. He has collaborated with Noah Bendix-Balgley, David Finckel, Wu Han, Emanuel Ax, Arnaud Sussmann, Miriam Fried, Gary Hoffman, Gilbert Kalish, Bob McDonald, and members of the Tokyo, Pacifica, and Escher String Quartets.

Raised in Houston, Texas, James’ education included studies with Houston Symphony Associate Principal Christopher French and with Hans Jørgen Jensen. James holds a BM from Colburn Conservatory of Music where he studied with Clive Greensmith.

NOTE: When editing, please do not delete references to Young Concert Artists, nor special prizes.
Please do not use previously dated biographies.

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Chinese pianist **Ying Li** is a winner of the 2021 YCA Susan Wadsworth International Auditions, as well as recipient of The Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival Prize and the Tri-I Noon Recitals Prize. She has also received top awards at the Antonio Mornone International Prize, Sarasota Artist Series Piano Competition, International Liszt Piano Competition for Young Pianists, and was a finalist at Concours musical international de Montréal.

She has performed with leading orchestras including The Philadelphia Orchestra, New Jersey Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, L'Accademia Orchestra del La Scala, Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland Pfalz, and the Stuttgart Philharmonic, with conductors Lina Gonzalez-Granados, Xian Zhang, Dan Ettinger, Eric Jacobsen, Jonathon Heyward, Dame Jane Glover, and Leslie Sugaanandarajah.

Her recent highlights include concerto appearances with the Minnesota Orchestra, Kansas City Symphony, Orlando Philharmonic, Eugene Symphony, Aiken Symphony, and the Salisbury Symphony, along with festival performances as a Bravo! Vail Piano Fellow, her debut at La Jolla SummerFest, and a return to the Nantucket Musical Arts Society.

This season she will appear with the Chattanooga Symphony, Carolina Philharmonic, Kiel Philharmonic at Sala Verdi in Milan, Chamber Orchestra Aquila, Anchorage Symphony, Loudoun Symphony, and the Maryland Symphony. Recital engagements include the Milano Torino Festival Internazionale della Musica, Laguna Beach, The 222 in Healdsburg, and Hayden's Ferry Chamber Music. She will also be featured on the YCA Season Finale at Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall in May 2026.

A dedicated chamber musician, Ying has performed at the Verbier Festival Academy, Ravinia's Steans Institute, Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, and the Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival.

After earning her Bachelor of Music from the Curtis Institute in 2019, Ying completed both her Master of Music and Artist Diploma at The Juilliard School under the guidance of Robert McDonald.

Ying Li's place on the YCA roster in 2025-2026 is generously sponsored by the Alan and Li Colberg Family Foundation.

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Praised for his uniquely beautiful playing and mature artistry, violinist **Oliver Neubauer** is quickly establishing himself as one of the most exciting young artists of his time. Winner of the 2023 Susan Wadsworth Young Concert Artists International Auditions and an inaugural YCA Jacobs Fellow, he has also been selected as a member of the newest class of laureates for the Fondation Gautier Capuçon.

Recent highlights include recital debuts at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and Merkin Hall in New York City, concerto debuts with the Delaware Symphony and Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle, and appearances with Jupiter Chamber Players, the Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach, Friends of Chamber Music in Missouri, the Buffalo Chamber Music Society, Hayden's Ferry Chamber Music Series in Arizona, and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

Upcoming engagements include his debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in fall 2025 as the recipient of the 2024 Gershen Cohen Award from the Juilliard School. He will also appear in recital at the Cold Spring Harbor Library and the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C., and as soloist with the Kennett Symphony and Brevard Philharmonic.

Past seasons have featured appearances at Music@Menlo, Verbier Festival Academy, Bravo! Vail, Chamber Music Northwest, Music in the Vineyards, Summerfest La Jolla, Music from Angel Fire, Lake Champlain Music Festival, and Art in Avila in Curaçao. He has performed at venues including Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, Symphony Space, Alice Tully Hall, and David Geffen Hall, and collaborated with artists such as Itzhak Perlman, Carter Brey, Ani Kavafian, Shai Wosner, Jason Vieaux, the Ulysses Quartet, and the Dover Quartet.

A graduate of the Juilliard School, where he studied as a Kovner Fellow, Oliver now studies with Mihaela Martin at the Kronberg Academy in Germany. He performs on the c.1725 "Milstein" Guarneri Del Gesù violin, generously on loan from the Ryuji Ueno Foundation and Rare Violins in Consortium.