

November 2024 Newsletter



MORNINGSIDE
MUSIC BRIDGE



Morningside Music Bridge is an international meeting ground for the world's most gifted young musicians ages 12-18 from around the globe. Every July we bring the great artists of tomorrow for a month of intensive music making on a full scholarship basis. Last year saw 690 applicants from 29 countries vying for a total of 66 full scholarships. They are joined by some of the world's most respected performing artists and teachers. Our alumni have become leading classical musicians performing on stages around the world, in key positions with the best orchestras, and teaching at top music schools.

At Morningside Music Bridge we are all about performing and creating. The 2024 program featured 21 concerts over 28 days. This included 16 Emerging Artist Recitals, the Highlights Concert, the String Orchestra Concert, and the Piano 4 Hands Concert. Every student was able to perform at least twice as a soloist (some three times if selected for the Highlights Concert), once with their chamber music group, and another time in the String Orchestra Concert or Piano 4 hands concert. These performances were complemented by 3 Resident Artist concerts featuring faculty and alumni.

The program is operated administratively through the Morningside Music Bridge Foundation with generous support from the Chan family.

For more details about Morningside Music Bridge, please visit mmb.international.

New initiatives

The 2024 program started one day earlier than usual, and we piloted a **Chamber Music Connections** Day on Sunday, July 7th. Students spent the day sight reading chamber music in many different combinations. It was an opportunity to meet and mingle with other participants before the instructional portion of the program commenced.

The String Orchestra Concert featured **world premiers** of MMB's first multi-media commissions. *Notes After Lockdown*, a work for String Orchestra and video, by noted composer Neil Leonard; and *Still Small Voice* for String Orchestra with ambient audio recording, by MMB Creative Residency student, Irene Huang. *Notes After Lockdown* featured video images

of Boston and Morningside Music Bridge. *Still Small Voice* used off stage musicians and ambient sounds from the MMB environment.

MMB Participants also collaborated on a **mosaic artwork** embracing their MMB experience visually.

Legendary violist, Kim Kashkashian led a class on **Tai Chi Principles for musicians**.

We hosted a "College Fair" evening for the first time with a joint presentation from the New England Conservatory and Juilliard School on tips and pointers for applying to major performance schools, financing your studies, negotiating aid packages, etc. This was followed by an opportunity to meet and chat with

representatives from most of the major US based music schools and a visit by a the "cannoli truck" so everyone could enjoy one of Boston's signature desserts.

Morningside Music Bridge has established a collaborative **partnership with the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra** in the United Kingdom. See MMB on Tour for details of our first projects.

AIRMILES — Morningside Music Bridge brings students and Resident Artists (faculty) from around the globe each year. You can help us with this very expensive venture by contributing some of your unused Air Miles. Please contact us at info@mmb.international to learn more.



MMB on tour

Over the years Morningside Music Bridge has organized and sponsored special concerts and events, outside of the regular summer program, featuring outstanding alumni at venues around the globe. These events create performance opportunities for the alumni as well as raise the profile of Morningside Music Bridge.

We evolved these formerly isolated events into a more regular part of our offerings as "Morningside Music Bridge on Tour" and launched this format in November of 2023 featuring alumni in performances in Boston, Poznan, Łódź, Gdansk, Warsaw, and the United Kingdom (at the Wimbledon International Music Festival and at Heckfield Place).

On October 3, an ensemble of MMB Alumni joined with the Principal String Players of the Oxford Philharmonic performed Mendelssohn's epic String Octet at 11 Downing Street, in London, U.K. and on October 4 performed with the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra with Maxim Vengerov playing and conducting Mozart Violin Concertos. In March of 2025, the same alumni will repeat the performance of the Octet and add the Mendelssohn C minor Piano Trio in Oxford and perform at Heckfield Place in Hampshire (heckfieldplace.com).

Alumni involved in the October 2024 and March 2025 tours are Timothy Chooi, violin; Zofia Olesik, violin; Emad Zolfaghri, viola; Maciej Kulakowski, cello; and Łukasz Byrdy, piano.

Alumni updates

Nothing makes us happier at Morningside Music Bridge than seeing our alumni do great things. In the past year.



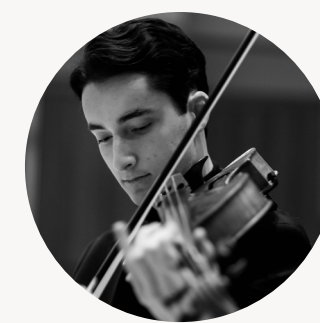
Jaeden Izik-Dzurko, piano, was the First Prize winner at the 2024 Leeds Piano Competition in the U.K.



Jacques Forrester, violin, was the First Prize winner of the 2024 Joseph Joachim International Competition.



Nikki Chooi, violin alum and MMB faculty member is featured on Naxos' American Classics Series performing Three American Pieces for Violin and Orchestra with the Buffalo Philharmonic conducted by JoAnn Falletta. Nikki also appeared as guest concertmaster with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in March of 2024.



Emad Zolfaghri, viola alum, was the First Prize winner (also Audience Prize) of the 2024 Primrose International Viola Competition in Los Angeles, and well as the First Prize winner of the 2023 Irving M. Klein International String Competition.



Teng Li, viola alum and MMB Faculty member, was appointed as principal viola of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, effective September 2024. Li will hold the Paul Hindemith Principal Viola Chair, which is endowed by an anonymous benefactor. The chair is named for the renowned 20th-century composer Paul Hindemith, who was also a distinguished violist and appeared as conductor and soloist with the CSO.



Krzysztof Michalski, cello, won 2nd Prize in the ARD International Music Competition held September 15th in Munich. He also claimed the Prize for Commissioned Piece for French composer Marc-André Dalbavie.



Diyang Mei, viola, is featured on a newly released Sony Classics album performing his own transcription of the Mozart Clarinet Concerto, K.622 as well as partnering with MMB violin faculty member and Advisory Council member Noah Bendix-Balgley in Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante, K. 364.

MMB 2025

MMB 2025 will be held at the New England Conservatory from July 6 to August 1, 2025.

Application opens November 1 and closes January 15. For more details visit: mmb.international



Join Our Team of Supporters

Support from alumni, friends, foundations and corporations allows Morningside Music Bridge to maintain its place as a world-class international summer training program.

Primary sponsorship for Morningside Music Bridge is provided by the Chan family (Morningside Group and Morningside Music Bridge Foundation). For almost 30 years their generosity and vision has made the program possible.

They are joined by the following team of supporters to ensure artistic excellence and international opportunity.

Please consider joining them and link your name to this transformative global artistic program.

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