

JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER



MORNINGSIDE  
MUSIC BRIDGE



## MMB 2024

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We received 690 applications for this summer's program from 29 countries — compared to 444 from 24 countries last year. This is a 55% increase which speaks to the growing reputation of the program but also makes the selection process extremely difficult.

There are 66 students that have received full scholarships to attend this summer's performance program. They will join us in Boston for 4 weeks of extraordinary music making (July 7 to August 2).

The Boston community will enjoy 16 Emerging Artists Recitals, two Student Chamber Music Concerts, the Highlights Concert, the String Orchestra Concert, and three Resident Artist Performances featuring outstanding faculty and alumni from around the world. All concerts except the Resident Artist Concerts will be Live Streamed and will be available on our website.

[mmb.international/concerts](https://mmb.international/concerts)

# Morningside Music Bridge

July 10 to August 2, 2024 | Boston, MA  
New England Conservatory

## Emerging Artists Recital

July 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24, 28, 29, 31  
New England Conservatory's Williams Hall

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## Chamber Music Concert

Friday July 26  
New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall

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## Highlights Concert

Thursday August 1  
New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall

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## String Orchestra Works

Friday August 2  
New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall



## Artists in Residence Concerts

New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall

**Saturday July 13**  
Maciej Kulakowski, cello

*Viano Quartet:*  
Lucy Wang, violin  
Hao Zhou, violin  
Aiden Kane, cello  
Tate Zawadiuk, cello

**Saturday July 20**  
Ian Swensen, violin  
Kim Kashkashian, viola  
Laurence Lesser, cello  
Szymon Nehring, piano

**Saturday July 27**  
Agata Szymczewska, violin  
Zvi Plesser, cello  
Jay Sun, piano  
Mateusz Makuch, violin  
Diana Cohen, violin  
Roman Rabinovich, piano

## About MMB

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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.

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.

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](http://mmb.international).



## New Initiatives

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After much reflection we concluded that as a world class teaching organisation perhaps we are focussing too much on competition when we could be spending more time on collaborative music making. We are therefore suspending our Concerto Competition for 2024 and extending our Chamber Music curriculum from two weeks to three weeks. The results of the change will be evaluated after this summer's program. As always, we engage in a detailed and comprehensive evaluation process with our participants as part of our commitment to constant improvement.

We have commissioned noted composer, saxophonist, and transdisciplinary artist Neil Leonard to compose a new multimedia work for String Orchestra and video to be premiered by the MMB String Orchestra on August 2 in Jordan Hall.

We are continuing with our Creative Residencies (added to our curriculum in Summer of 2023) and have invited a young composer from Toronto to participate. We will also continue with the Piano Four Hands coaching and performances that were introduced last summer.

Distinguished violist and chamber musician Kim Kashkashian will be leading a Tai Chi class for all the students focussing on preventing practise injuries.

We are inviting representatives from major American music schools to take part in an evening devoted to discussions with our students about options for further study.



## MMB on Tour

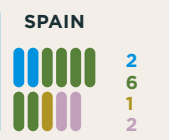
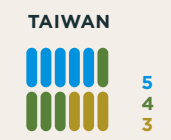
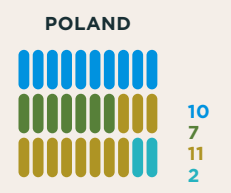
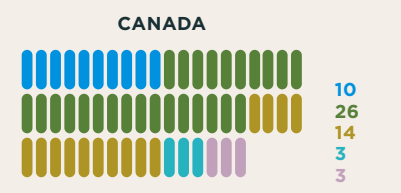
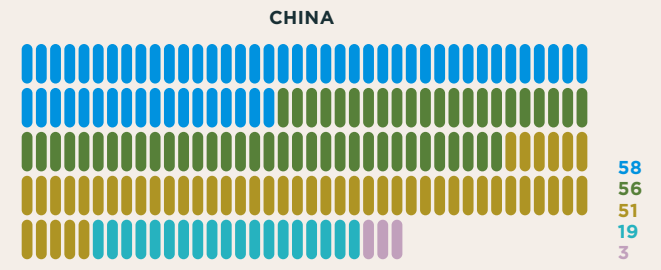
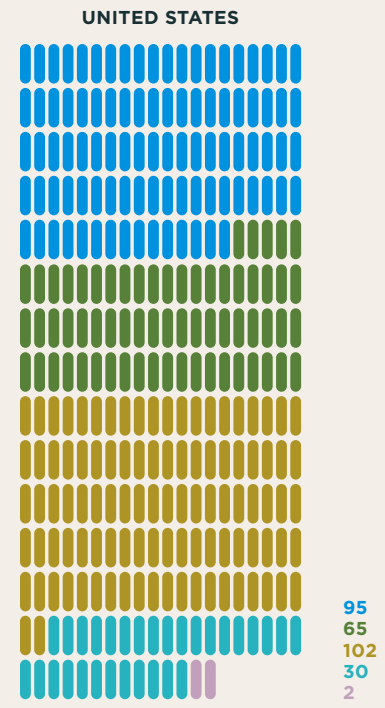
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November of 2023 saw our first MMB on Tour trip. Six MMB alumni took part in 11 highly successful concerts: Boston, Poznan (two concerts), Lodz, Gdansk, Warsaw (two concerts), Wimbledon International Music Festival, and Heckfield Place.

Plans are now underway for events in 2024-25.

# 2024 APPLICATION STATS

- CELLO
- PIANO
- VIOLIN
- VIOLA
- CREATIVE STREAM

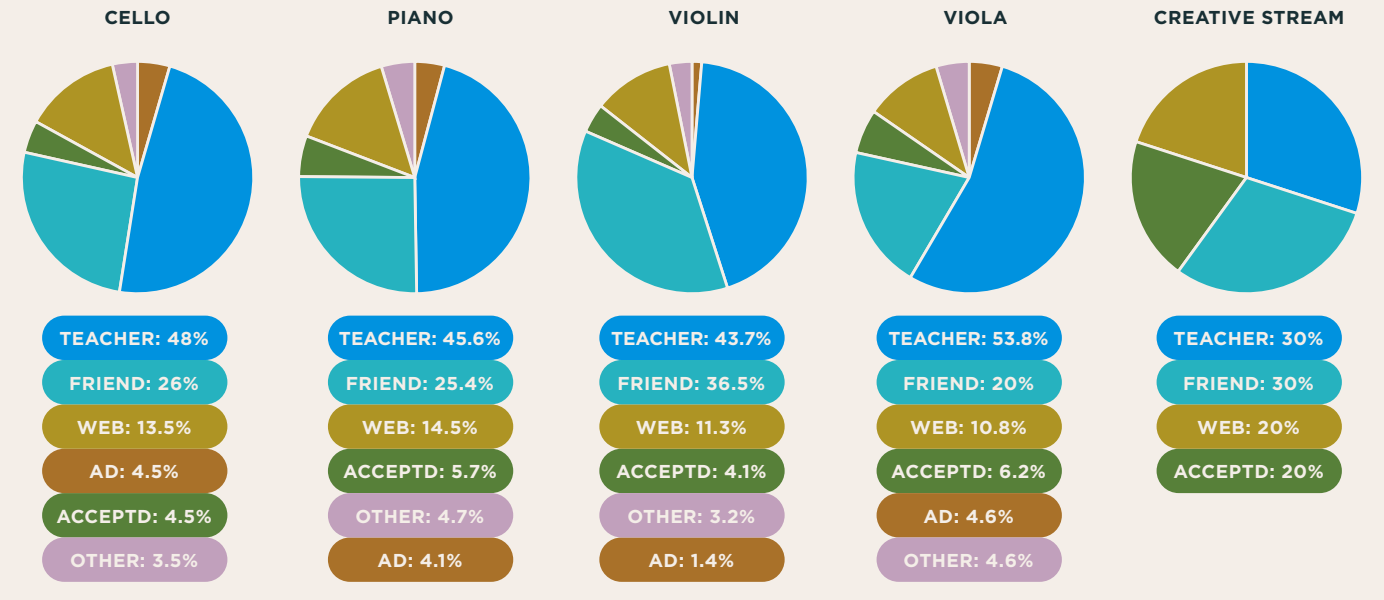


ARGENTINA	2
AUSTRIA	1 1
COLOMBIA	2 1 1
COSTA RICA	1
GERMANY	1 1 1
GREECE	2
ICELAND	2
ISRAEL	1 2 1 1
MALAYSIA	2

MEXICO	1
MONGOLIA	1
NORWAY	1
PORTUGAL	1
SINGAPORE	2 1
SWITZERLAND	1
TURKEY	1 2
UKRAINE	1

2023 DATA	2024 DATA
24 countries represented	29 countries represented
101 cello	200 cello
118 piano	193 piano
182 violin	222 violin
40 viola	65 viola
3 creative stream	10 creative stream
<b>TOTAL: 444 applicants</b>	<b>TOTAL: 690 applicants</b>

# HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US?



# SEVEN YEAR COMPARISON

- COUNTRIES
- VIOLIN
- VIOLA
- CELLO
- PIANO
- CREATIVE STREAM
- TOTAL

**2018:** 286 total applicants  
21 countries **91 34 64 97**

**2019:** 368 total applicants  
19 countries **136 49 91 92**

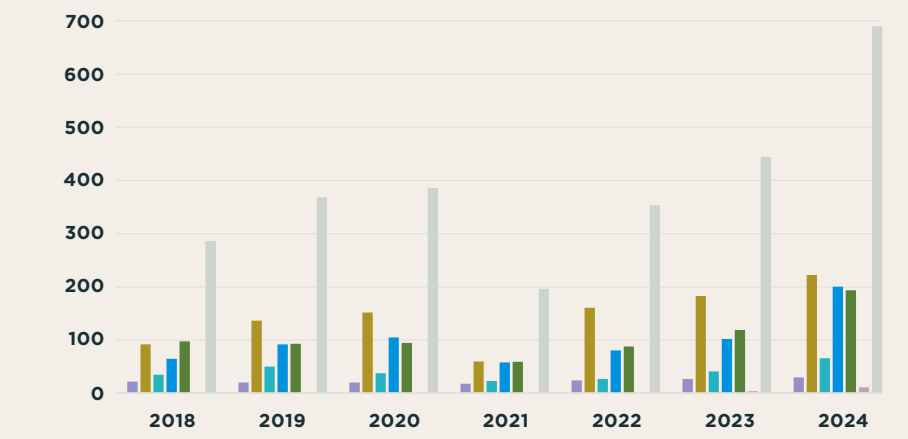
**2020:** 386 total applicants  
19 countries **151 37 104 94**

**2021:** 196 total applicants  
17 countries **59 22 57 58**

**2022:** 353 total applicants  
23 countries **160 26 80 87**

**2023:** 444 total applicants  
26 countries **182 40 101 118 3**

**2024:** 690 total applicants  
29 countries **222 65 200 193 10**



## Alumni Updates

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### Jaeden Izik-Durko, piano

Jaeden Izik-Durko attended MMB for four summers and has been celebrated by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in 2021 as one of “30 hot Canadian classical musicians under 30.” He is a First Prize winner at the 2022 Hilton Head International Piano Competition and the 2022 Maria Canals International Music Competition, and was awarded the First Prize, the Canon Audience Prize, and the Chamber Music Award at the 20th Paloma O’Shea Santander International Piano Competition. He has won the top honour at the 2024 Piano Edition of the Concours musical international de Montréal.



### Amaryn Olmeda, violin

In 2023, Amaryn Olmeda made her recording debut as the featured soloist of Carlos Simon’s *Between Worlds* on the Sphinx Virtuosi’s inaugural recording with Deutsche Grammophon. The Strad Magazine says of her performance, “it receives an impressive reading here by the young musician [and] she shows why she has garnered the word ‘prodigy.’”



### Wojciech Niedziółka, violin

The Dux label in Poland has just released Wojciech’s recording of the Henryk Wieniawski *Violin Concerto No. 1* with the Arthur Rubinstein Philharmonic Orchestra. Wojciech was a participant in the inaugural Morningside Music Bridge on Tour concerts in November of 2023.



### Yuja Wang, piano

Yuja Wang received a GRAMMY® Award for Best Classical Instrumental Solo for *The American Project* with conductor and composer Teddy Abrams and the Louisville Orchestra.



### Earl Lee, cello

MMB Resident Artist and cello alum Earl Lee, Assistant Conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Music Director, Ann Arbor Symphony will be leading a Boston Symphony Orchestra concert on August 18th at the Tanglewood Music Center featuring musical legend Yo-Yo Ma as soloist in the Schumann Cello Concerto.



### Clayton Stephenson, piano

Clayton Stephenson has been announced as a recipient of a 2024 Avery Fisher Career Grant. Clayton also won the Grand Prize at the inaugural Simone Piano Competition performing the Tchaikovsky *Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, Op. 23* with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Louis Langree.



### Sihao He, cello

Sihao He will be joining the Shanghai Quartet in September 2024. The Quartet is lucky to have two MMB Alum as members. Angelo Xiang Yu, violin, joined the group in 2020.



### Wenting Kang, viola

Wenting Kang begins her faculty appointment at NEC in Fall of 2024. A former violist of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Wenting is currently the principal violist of Orquesta Sinfonica de Madrid at Teatro Real of Spain, as well as one of the founding members of the Madrid Soloists Chamber Orchestra.



[mmb.international](http://mmb.international)