

Jenny Chen - Biography

“Poetry. Phrasing. Also technical ability. They have to have that, but expression is the important thing- the thing you cannot buy, you cannot manufacture. That’s what Jenny has.” (Eleanor Sokoloff in Philadelphia Inquirer).

Jenny is an ardent artist, chamber musician, and educator. Her artistry expresses her individuality and sincerity about music. Since the age of six, Jenny’s talent in music was demonstrated in her early development. After winning numerous first prizes throughout Taiwan, Jenny made her debut with the Taipei Symphony Orchestra at age nine. The next year, at age ten, she was accepted by the prestigious conservatory, Curtis Institute of Music, studying with leading mentors Eleanor Sokoloff and Gary Graffman.

During her unusual childhood at Curtis, surrounded by inspiring mentors and collaborations with colleagues, Jenny became interested in chamber music and developed special intuition in interacting with other instruments. The vast chamber repertoire consisting of trios, quartets, quintets, help her to achieve sensitivity in hearing and listening. This quality has changed her thinking on the soloist versus orchestra relationship, and her exceptional gift in collaborating with orchestral players is shown in her concerto performance with The Philadelphia Orchestra at age fourteen. Her successful performance led to another concerto performance with The Philadelphia Orchestra.

At eighteen, Jenny enrolled in the Master’s Degree program at Yale University, under the tutelage of Robert Blocker and Melvin Chen. At twenty years old, Jenny was accepted into the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree by Eastman School of Music studying with Douglas Humpherys. She was awarded full scholarships and teaching assistantships at both universities. Jenny has been invited to perform in many festivals including Chamber Music Encounters of Lincoln Center, Sejong Music Festival, Mainly Mozart Festival, Ocean Reef Beach Festival and Bravo! Vail Festival. One noted festival, Tippet Rise Festival, has been inviting Jenny each season since it was founded in 2016. She also served as the director of the 2018 Dalian Festival in Dalian, China. Jenny performed with numerous orchestras including Taipei Symphony Orchestra, National Repertory Orchestra, Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic, New York Downtown Sinfonietta, and Pacific Symphony, with conductors such as Rossen Milanov, Neil Varon, Carl Topilow, Stuart Malina, and Carl St. Clair. As a chamber musician, she has collaborated with prestigious musicians such as Anne-Marie McDermott, Arnold Steinhardt, Peter Wiley, Andrew Bain, Zach De Pue, and Anton Nel. One notable collaboration includes a family concert with the Director of Family Programs at Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Bruce Adolphe, acting out a play called “Leave it to Ludwig.” Jenny won top prizes internationally, including Fifth New York International Piano Competition, the Twelfth Eastman International Piano Competition, and the Young Concert Artists’ International auditions, MTNA National Competition, the 9th International Franz Liszt Competition, the Rodney and Lorna Sawatsky Rising Stars Concerto Competition, the American Protégé International Piano and Strings Competition, and the Lowry award. She also received fellowship awards such as the Martha Stone Scholarship, the Cecile Staub Genhart Scholarship, the Mary Clapp Howell Scholarship and Fellowship, the Stephen Hendel Scholarship and Fellowship, the Suzanne Roberts Cultural Development Fund Annual Fellow, Stephen Hendel Scholarship and Fellowship, the Stravinsky Awards Scholarship, Taiwan Chi-Mei Artist Scholarship, and the Taiwan Dong-Sung Culture foundation scholarship. Jenny was very fortunate

to receive sponsorship from Comcast founder Ralph and Suzanne Roberts whose dedicated friendship and financial aid sustained her during her education. She also acknowledges Tippet Rise Art Center Co-Founders, Peter and Cathy Halstead, whose generous support helps her tremendously in her career, especially in guiding her after her post-doctoral studies.

Jenny's performances have been broadcast on live TV and radio from WHY's On Stage at Curtis, Classical MPR's Performance Today, and FOX Rochester. Moreover, her performance was selected to be included in Curtis Institute of Music's released CD and Tippet Rise Opus 2016-Domo. She has received audience acclaim appearing in solo and chamber music performances across the United States and abroad in venues including Alice Tully Hall of Lincoln Center, Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, the Hatch Recital Hall, Montanta Cultural Center, Park Avenue Christian Church, Greenwald Hall, Renee Weiler Concert Hall, Budrz Theater and Merkin Concert Hall in New York, the Kimmel Center's Verizon Hall, Jacobs Music Studio, Field Concert Hall and Lenfest Hall in Philadelphia, Morse Recital Hall in New Haven, Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts in Fairfield, Washington Opera House in Maysville, Church of the Annunciation in Washington, D.C, Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall in California, Golden Circle Soiree, Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater in Vail, Colorado, Liszt Academy in Weimar, German, Willow Grove, Vredenburg Leeuwenbergh and Vredenburg Leidsche Rijn in the Netherlands, and Solti Hall in Hungary, Yamaha Artists Service Center, National Concert Hall, Jungil Arts Hall, Mandarin Daily News Culture Center, and Carrie Chang Music Hall in Taiwan.

Currently Jenny serves as the Staff Pianist at the Curtis Institute of Music since 2018, and most recently in 2021 joined Temple University as a Ballet Pianist. As an educator, she has a youtube channel that serves as an educational platform for classical music. Beside teaching online, she also has a private teaching studio.