



## **A ROAD TO BRILLIANCE**

*Brilliant Talent Discovery Awards International Music Competition:  
series of music lectures via Zoom*

### **SCHEDULE**

**3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021 @ 12:00 Central European Time (GMT+1)**

**with Kseniia Vokhmianina (Ukraine/Singapore)**

**Developing Artistic Qualities: an Effective Performance Preparation**

<https://forms.gle/HUWQJYUh66nHh3xP7> - (Last day of registration 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021)

**4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 @ 12:00 Central European Time (GMT+1)**

**With Graham Fitch (UK)**

**Teaching and Practice Approaches for Burgmüller's Op. 100 Études**

<https://forms.gle/wdML8HLAQJTYUQ5n8> - (Last day of registration 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021)

**4 May 2021 @ 13:30 Central European Time (GMT+1)**

**With Thomas Manhurt (Germany)**

**Facial Relaxation in the warming up for singers**

<https://forms.gle/eQkbT8x29DZVkS8q6> - (Last day of registration 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021)

**5 May 2021 @ 12:00 Central European Time (GMT+1)**

**With Vahur Luhtsalu (Estonia)**

**Shortcuts for advanced cello playing**

<https://forms.gle/DMndXnW8arG9sqqM9> - (Last day of registration 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021)



**KSENIIA VOKHMANINA**  
(Ukraine/Singapore)

Hailed as a performer with an “artistry of the highest order” by the Straits Times and “maturity of musicianship and virtuosity” by the Pianomania, Ksenia Vokhmanina has gained critical and audience attention as a concerto soloist, recitalist and chamber musician.

Ksenia's latest performances have brought her to prominent international venues including Steinway Gallery, Victoria Concert Hall, Esplanade Recital Studio (Singapore), Concert Hall of Ho Chi Minh City National Conservatory of Music (Vietnam), Seoul Arts Centre (South Korea), the Auditorium Olivier Messiaen (France), Institut Supérieur de Musique et de Pédagogie (Belgium), Hervormde Kerk – Den Hoorn, Texel (Netherlands), Grosser Saal in Einsiedeln Abbey (Switzerland), Mendelssohn-Haus Leipzig (Germany), Aralik Cumartesi saat İstanbul (Turkey), Yunduan-Tianfu Music Hall (China), Bösendorfer Loft Philharmonic Moscow (Russia), Guarnerius Concert Hall (Serbia).

Ksenia was awarded the Lee Foundation Scholarship and the Tuition Grant from the Ministry of Education of Singapore to attain the Diploma in Music Performance course at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (Singapore) under the tutelage of a distinguished pianist and professor Boris Kraljevic. Ms Vokhmanina was granted the diploma as the “Best Graduate” in 2008, and became a recipient of the prestigious degree scholarship to pursue Bachelor of Music (Hons) at the Royal College of Music in London (UK). In 2015 Ms Vokhmanina completed her Masters in Music with distinction at the Kharkiv National Pedagogical University in Ukraine. Further studies took Ksenia to the Zurich University of the Arts (Switzerland), where she obtained the Certificate of Advanced Studies in Classical Music Performance in class of a renowned pianist, Prof. Konstantin Scherbakov.

Her many competition successes include the 1st Prize and Special Prize for “The Best Performer from Eastern Europe” at the International Competition “Citta di Barletta” in Italy; the 1st Prize at the IX International Piano Competition in Serbia; the 3rd prize at Singapore National Piano and Violin Competition; “Golden Piano” prize at the International Forum of Pianists in Sanok (Poland); Silver prize at 4th ASEAN Chopin Piano Competition (Malaysia); the 2nd Prize in “Russian Piano” category at Sydney Eisteddfod (Australia); the 1st Prize (Artist category) at Medan International Piano Competition (Indonesia, 2015) and two awards (including “Prix du Barreau du Val D’oise”) at the Piano Campus International Piano Competition (France, 2015). She was recently awarded the top prize in her category as well as two special prizes, including “for the best musical performance” at the “Clavis Bavaria 2020” International Piano Competition.

Ksenia has been a guest artist in several international music festivals “Days of Music” (Montenegro), “E. Grieg-M. Ciurlionis” (Lithuania), “Convivium Musicum” (Serbia), “George Town Festival” (Malaysia), “International Piano Festival” (Vietnam), and “International Holland Music Sessions” (Netherlands), 65th Pablo Casals Festival (France), which were warmly received by both, audience and music critics. She performed with Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Symphony Orchestra, Festival Symphony Orchestra (Singapore), Kharkiv Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (Ukraine), Kaunas Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (Lithuania), Sichuan Symphony Orchestra (China) and Murmansk Philharmonic Orchestra (Russia).

Alongside her international performing career, Ms Vokhmanina is a full-time Music Faculty member of the School of The Arts (SOTA) in Singapore since 2014. She is working closely with instrumentalists and vocalists, and performing with students, faculty members and visiting artists in numerous recitals. Ksenia also conducts performance classes and teaches lectures on various topics at the Music Faculty. Ms Vokhmanina is the President of the World Piano Teachers Association (Singapore affiliate) since 2018.



**GRAHAM FITCH**  
(UK)

Graham Fitch maintains an international reputation as a teacher of piano and a writer and broadcaster on piano playing. His workshops and classes, which he has given all over the world, have received high praise for their creative and illuminating approach to the subject. He graduated with honours from the Royal

College of Music in London, winning the Hopkinson Gold Medal for piano performance. A Fulbright Scholarship then took him to the United States, where he completed his studies with Ann Schein and Nina Svetlanova, as well as participating in regular classes with Leon Fleisher, winning first prize in the Mieczyslaw Munz Piano Competition.

From 1997 to 2008, Graham Fitch was Associate Professor, Head of Keyboard at the South African College of Music, University of Cape Town, from where he travelled extensively to perform and teach. An international tour of Bach's Goldberg Variations elicited rapturous reviews on four continents, and invitations to return to Australia, New Zealand and the USA. He gave recitals, masterclasses and keynote addresses at several consecutive Australasian Piano Pedagogy Conferences in Australia, and has been in residence at London's Royal Academy of Music.

Graham is a regular writer for Pianist Magazine, and has many video demonstrations on the magazine's YouTube channel. His popular blog, [www.practisingthepiano.com](http://www.practisingthepiano.com), led to a series of 4 e-books on piano playing and the founding of a subscription website, the Online Academy, that features his own study editions, writings and videos, as well as content from a team of international pianists and teachers.

Graham teaches privately in London, and counts among his long-term students Daniel Grimwood and James Baillieu, with many others active in the profession. In addition to teaching talented youngsters, tertiary level piano students and working with piano teachers, Graham is very interested in helping amateur pianists develop their playing. Graham is a principal tutor on The Piano Teachers' Course (UK), and is also a regular tutor at the Summer School for Pianists. He gives weekend courses at Finchcocks and Jackdaws, annual piano courses in France and Switzerland, and also gives regular workshops and classes across the UK.



**THOMAS MANHART**  
(Germany)

Dr. Thomas Markus Manhart is lecturer for breathing and singing techniques at the Athanor Academy for Acting in Passau, Germany. His private voice studio Artyfakt SingShui has been successful in Singapore since 2005, and now also established in Germany, catering to classical as well as contemporary students.

Trained as a singer in Munich and Vienna's Music Universities, he obtained a Music Teaching degree and a Master of Arts in Music (voice) Pedagogy, both in Germany, and a PhD in Southeast Asian Music at the National University of Singapore. Dr Manhart has been teaching at all major institutions of music education in Singapore, ethnomusicology at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory and the National Institute of Education, German Phonetic and

song at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, voice for musical theatre at the LaSalle College of the Arts, and voice and worldmusic at the Singapore School of the Arts, where he was also Head of the Music Department.

He has taught vocal masterclasses and German song courses in Southeast Asia and Europe, adjudicated competitions and exams, he is an active speaker at conferences of music education and ethnomusicology, and has performed as singer as well as instrumentalist in Asia and Europe.

With deeper professional development in breathing and relaxation techniques, and experienced in online teaching from the start of his career, he has become a sought after coach for singers, actors, as well as speakers worldwide.



Vahur Luhtsalu is cellist, music educator, performing and recording artist, publicist, living and working in Indonesia since 2016 sharing his time until recently between Indonesia and Singapore leading Cello, Chamber Music, Symphonic Orchestra study programs at the Universitas Pelita Harapan, Conservatory of Music in Tangerang, Indonesia and teaching Cello in Tanglewood Music School in Singapore. He had premiered, recorded many solo cello, chamber music and orchestral works of Estonian and Indonesian composers, among others Arvo Pärt, Ananda Sukarlan, Urmas Sisask, Mirjam Tally, Ivan Tangkulung, Wishnu Dewanta, Wilbert Deil and Amanda Chikita.

Over the years he had collaborated with number of international performing artists - conductors Arvo Volmer, ikolai Alexeev, Gevorg Sargsyan, Therese Wirakesuma, violinists Tomislav Dimov, Maano Männi, Amelia Tionanda, Danny Robertus, German Dmitriev, pianists Andres Paas, Amelia Santoso, Stefina Wibisono, jazz pianist Glen Dauna and vocalist Artidewi.

Vahur Luhtsalu was born in Tallinn, Estonia and started his cello studies there at the age of 8. Over the years he had been instructed by a number of Estonian, Hungarian, Israeli and American cellists - Lembi Mets, Istvan Csurgay, Csaba Onczay, Uzi Wiesel and Bai-Chi Chen. After receiving his Master degree from Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, Hungary in 1997 he pursued an active career as cello artist and chamber music teacher at Tallinn Georg Ots Music High School. Since then he has appeared in concerts, music festivals in many countries of Europe and Asia, performing mostly classical chamber music repertoire for cello and piano. Over the years he had been principal or member of the cello section of many orchestras in Estonia, Hungary, Turkey and Indonesia - Budapest Operetta Theatre orchestra, Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, Istanbul SO, Borusan SO, Jayakarta SO and Universitas Pelita Harapan SO. He had recorded classical works for cello and piano for Estonian, Hungarian national radio stations and as a member of orchestra CDs under various labels (Consonant Works, Alba). Due to the medical condition of his left hand he had a career break of 15 years as a performing artist. Before relaunching his musical and educational career, he had worked in various positions in international affairs at Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Central Bank in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. While being stationed at Estonian Embassy in Turkey, as Deputy Head of Mission, he initiated and organised a number of Estonian cultural events in Turkey, most notably IsTallinnbul – Estonian Cultural Season in Istanbul, then European Capital of Culture in 2010.

He publishes regularly in Estonian, Indonesian newspapers, online media outlets and has participated in TV shows in many countries about music and societal matters. He has appeared in more than 30 countries around Europe and Asia as a music performer and public speaker. His current mission as music educator and performer is to encourage young and emerging musicians to attain fine skills and artistry in cello, chamber music and orchestral performance. He also appears regularly as cello instructor and adjudicator in masterclasses, music competitions. Many of his former cello and chamber music students perform regularly as solo artists or as members of professional collectives in the international music scene. His notable cello students include Rachman Noor, Jonathan William Abraham and Heidi Imanda Cahyadi, the latter currently continuing her cello studies in the USA.