

**Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall  
Walter Carroll Lunchtime Concert Series  
Thursday 14 May 2026, 13.10**

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**“Listen Up!”  
Postgraduate Performance Showcase**



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**Making donations to support our free concerts at the Martin Harris Centre**

*Although Lunchtime Concerts and Recitals are free, you are invited to make a voluntary donation towards their running costs.*

*If you wish to support our free concerts, we are using JustGiving as an alternative to collecting cash donations at events.*

Voluntary donations can be made by scanning the QR code or visiting our JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/mhc-donate>



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**Photography and/or recording of this performance are strictly prohibited.**

- Please stifle coughing as much as possible,
- Please ensure watch alarms, and any audible devices are switched off

# Today's Performance

Postgraduate students from the MusM Music (Performance Studies) course perform a colourful selection of 19th and 20th century solos, operatic arias, and piano duos from France, Italy, China, the UK, and Iran.

<b>Composer</b>	<b>Music Piece</b>	<b>Performers</b>
Cécile Chaminade	<i>Andante et scherzettino</i> Op. 59	Qing Qin, Mengbei Li (piano duo)
Aminollah Andre Hossein	<i>Homage to Omar Khayyam Prelude</i> (1956) for solo piano	Babak Kowsari (piano)
Giacomo Puccini	'Donde lieta usci' (Mimi) from Act 3 of <i>La Bohème</i>	Zixuan Wang (soprano), Chenjing Yu (piano)
Gaetano Donizetti	<i>Cavatina</i> : 'Quel guardo il cavaliere' (Norina) from Act 1 of <i>Don Pasquale</i>	Qinying Tang (soprano), Yanqi Chen (piano)
Graham Fitkin	<i>Aract</i> (1994)	Qianxi Zhao, Ke Su (piano duo)
Xinghai Xian	<i>Defend the Yellow River</i> (保衛黄河) 4th movement from <i>Yellow River Concerto</i> (黄河钢琴协奏曲) (1970, arranged for piano duo)	Huishan Wang, Beilei Wang (piano duo)

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# Performers

## Qing Qin

My name is Qing Qin. I have studied piano since childhood. During my undergraduate studies, I majored in musicology and minored in piano performance. This academic background has enabled me to understand music from both theoretical and practical perspectives, gradually shaping my understanding of music. In recent years, I have actively participated in piano solo performances and received awards in several youth piano competitions. At the same time, I have also gained experience in piano accompaniment and collaborative performance. For me, performance is not only about technique, but also about expressing a deep understanding of the music. I have always hoped to build a connection between performance and research, while pursuing a sincere, delicate and natural musical expression in my performance.



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## Mengbei Li

Li Mengbei is a dedicated pianist and music educator with 17 years of training. She earned her BMus in Piano Performance from Xinghai Conservatory of Music, ranking top 15% with three consecutive merit scholarships, and is currently pursuing her MA in Piano Performance at the University of Manchester.

A prize-winning performer, she has won national and international competitions and holds ABRSM Grade 8 and China Conservatory Grade 10 certifications. With experience as a conservatoire administrative assistant and piano teacher, she combines rigorous technical training with student-centred teaching, specialising in exam preparation, ABRSM syllabi, and engaging learners of all ages.



Her practice balances performance, pedagogy, and inclusive music education, bringing precision, creativity, and a passion for inspiring musical growth to every student.

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## **Babak Kowsari**

Babak is an Iranian pianist currently studying for a MusM degree at The University of Manchester. He completed a BA in Music at Azad University in 2015, followed by an MA in Piano Performance at The Art University of Tehran in 2020.

His artistic work explores atmosphere, color, and emotional communication through performance, with a particular interest in connecting Western classical repertoire and contemporary Iranian music. After losing much of the mobility in his right arm in 2016, he developed a highly individual physical approach to the piano, shaping his relationship with movement, body, and musical expression in deeply personal ways.

Alongside performing, he is also interested in teaching as a creative and human exchange centered on listening, imagination, and individuality. Babak views music as a shared language capable of bringing people together across cultures and experiences. Through performance and education, he aims to create spaces for reflection, emotional connection, and cultural dialogue.

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## **Zixuan Wang**

Zixuan Wang is a Chinese lyric soprano currently pursuing her Master's degree in Music Performance at the University of Manchester. Known for her nuanced interpretation and expressive musicality, she brings depth and sensitivity to a diverse repertoire spanning opera, art song, and contemporary works. Her approach to performance is rooted in the conviction that every phrase should serve the truth of the music and the emotion behind it.

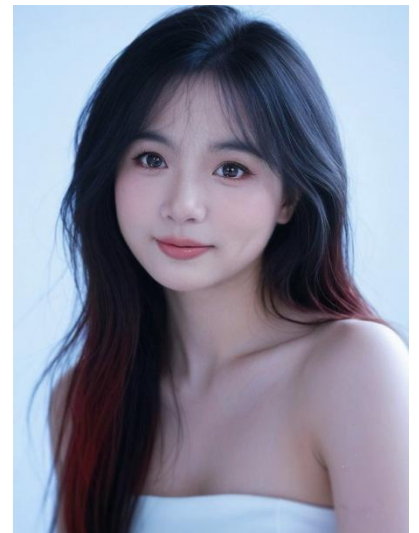


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## **Chenjing Yu**

A Master's student in Music Performance (Piano) at the University of Manchester, she holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education. With rich experience in artistic coaching, she has collaborated widely with instrumentalists, vocalists and choirs.

For her, artistic coaching is more than piano accompaniment. With solid musicianship and refined control over dynamics, tempo and emotion, she blends seamlessly with performers to enrich musical layers and deliver profound artistic expression.



## **Qingying Tang**

I am Qingying Tang, currently pursuing my master's degree at The University of Manchester, where I study vocal performance with Antonia Sotgiu. I have won several awards in vocal competitions and was awarded multiple scholarships during my undergraduate studies.

This year, I performed as main character in MUMS Opera's production of Hansel and Gretel, participated in performance celebrating International Women's Day, and presented a solo recital in January .

As a classical singer, I am passionate about exploring different emotions and perspectives through singing. I hope to create sincere and meaningful connections with audiences through performance.

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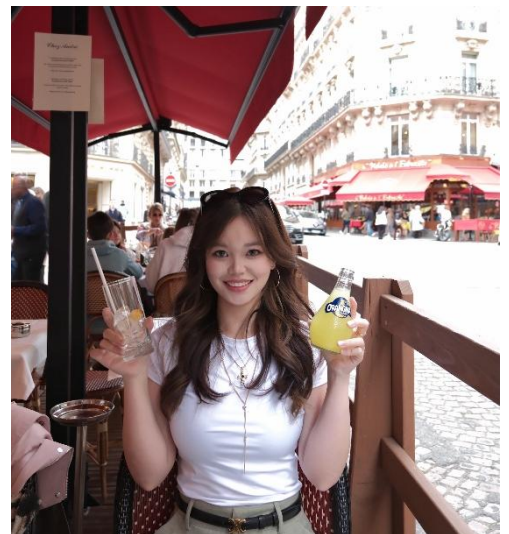


## **Yanqi Chen**

My name is Yanqi Chen (Vicky). I am a postgraduate student majoring in piano performance at the University of Manchester. My MBTI score is ENTJ.

I have an outgoing personality and enjoy playing classical music. I am very happy to have this opportunity to explore a new genre and to accompany vocal students as an artistic director.

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## **Qianxi Zhao**

Qianxi Zhao is a pianist from China specialising in both classical and contemporary music. Alongside solo piano performance, she is actively engaged in chamber music, duo piano, vocal accompaniment, and collaborative contemporary projects. Her artistic interests centre on musical expression, performer collaboration, and contemporary approaches to performance practice.

Qianxi has participated in a wide range of concerts and interdisciplinary collaborations, working with musicians across diverse musical settings. She was recognised as an Outstanding Graduate by the Xi'an Conservatory of Music and received Second Prize in the American Music Performer Competition (Provincial Division). Currently studying at The University of Manchester, she continues to explore collaborative and contemporary performance practices alongside her classical training.

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## **Ke Su**

Ke Su is from China. She is a pianist whose musical practice focuses mainly on solo piano performance, with an interest in both classical and contemporary repertoire. She is particularly interested in musical expression, sound, and the different ways performers communicate ideas through the piano.

Ke has participated in piano competitions and concerts in China, and has also been involved in performance activities at the University of Manchester. Her current work explores the relationship between tone, phrasing, structure, and expressive detail in piano performance. Alongside her solo piano studies, she is developing her experience in collaborative performance, including piano duo repertoire. Currently based at the University of Manchester, she continues to explore classical and contemporary piano works, with an interest in how performers shape musical character through listening, timing, and sound.

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## **Huishan Wang**

Huishan Wang is a pianist currently pursuing her MMus in Performance Studies at the University of Manchester. She is active in both solo and collaborative piano performance. Her performance style is versatile, embracing a wide spectrum of musical genres and expressive interpretations. She strives to integrate solid technical mastery with profound artistic sensibility, conveying the emotional charm and cultural connotation of each work to the audience.



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## **Beilei Wang**

Beilei Wang is a Chinese pianist currently studying MusM Music in Performance Studies, specialising in piano, at The University of Manchester. She completed her undergraduate studies at Shandong University, where she received the National Encouragement Scholarship and Academic Scholarship for two consecutive years.

She has won several prizes, including First Prize in the Open Category of the China–Singapore International Piano Competition and First Prize at the Shandong Piano Competition. She gave her undergraduate graduation solo recital at Shandong University. Alongside solo performance, she has gained extensive collaborative stage experience, including large-scale multi-piano ensemble projects featuring works such as Beethoven’s Symphony No. 5 and the Military Symphony. She also has rich experience collaborating with vocalists and instrumentalists in performance.



She is also committed to music education. Since 2018, she has taught piano, music theory, sight-singing and aural training, harmony, and musical form, and has also worked as a volunteer music teacher at Manchester Chinese School. Through her wider teaching practice, she has supported students who went on to study at institutions including the Central University for Nationalities, Tianjin Conservatory of Music, Manhattan School of Music, Berklee College of Music, and the Juilliard Pre-College.

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# Coming up at the Martin Harris Centre

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[www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre](http://www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre)

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**Relaxed Performance:** Summer Sing and Sign-along (BSL interpreted and fully accessible)

**Date:** Friday 12 June 2026

**Venue:** Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

**Time:** 11:00 (Doors 10:30)

**Price:** FREE (Book for groups of 10+ on 0161 275 8951 or email [boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk))

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## **Little Belters and Absolute Belters' Summer Concert**

**Date:** Sunday 05 July 2026

**Venue:** Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

**Time:** 14:00

**Price:** £15.00 Full Price /// £10.00 Concession

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