

Kronberg's new study programme for pianists gets underway

Kronberg Academy names first students on the
"Sir Andrés Schiff Performance Programme for Young Pianists"

Mishka Rushdie Momen and Jean-Sélim Abdelmoula are to be the first students enrolled on the new study programme for pianists at Kronberg Academy. The two-year course of study entitled the "Sir Andrés Schiff Performance Programme for Young Pianists" begins in October 2018 and is aimed at top class young pianists who wish to focus on chamber music.

Sir Andrés Schiff will, himself, teach on the programme that he has developed jointly with Kronberg Academy. The world-famous pianist and conductor has been closely associated with Kronberg Academy for many years as an artist, lecturer and member of the Artistic Council. Kirill Gerstein, Professor Ferenc Rados, Dénes Várjon and Professor Rita Wagner join Sir Andrés Schiff as the lecturers on the new programme. The young pianists will primarily explore duets and works for chamber ensembles together with students of violin, viola and cello. Like all students at Kronberg Academy, they will also be able to take lessons in theoretical subjects and in German.

The Günter Henle Foundation and the Horizon Foundation are providing substantial funding for the Sir Andrés Schiff Performance Programme for Young Pianists. The foundations will assume the patronage for the first four years of the programme, thus covering the majority of the tuition costs for the first two students. In addition, G. Henle Verlag is kindly donating sheet music from its entire catalogue of piano repertoire, comprising 706 Urtext editions from 55 composers for solo piano and duet, including pocket scores.

Raimund Trenkler, Founder and Chairman of the Board of Kronberg Academy Foundation, sees the piano as "a vital element in chamber music. This new study programme is therefore the final component rounding off the curriculum at Kronberg Academy in its 25th year." Friedemann Eichhorn, Director of the Kronberg Academy Study Programmes, highlights the fact that "Kronberg gives string players and pianists an opportunity to explore chamber music together at the very highest level while they are still students and to form lasting musical partnerships. We are delighted to be welcoming Jean-Sélim Abdelmoula and Mishka Rushdie Momen to Kronberg as our first piano students."

Jean-Sélim Abdelmoula was born in Switzerland in 1991. He studied piano with Christian Favre at the Haute École de Musique de Lausanne and then chamber music at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London with Ronan O'Hara. In addition, he studied composition with Julian Anderson and has worked as a composer with Heinz Holliger and George Benjamin. As a soloist, he has performed at numerous festivals and given concerts in cities including Zürich, Barcelona, Toronto, Bremen, New York and London. He has received many prizes and scholarships for both his piano playing and his compositions. Sir Andrés Schiff has invited him to perform in concerts in Berlin, Frankfurt, Zürich, New York, Dusseldorf and Brussels.

Born in 1992, **Mishka Rushdie Momen** studied with Joan Havill and Imogen Cooper at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in her home city of London, and also with Richard Goode. More recently, the multi-award-winning pianist was invited by Sir Andrés Schiff to

give concerts in Zürich, New York, Antwerp and several German and Italian cities. As a soloist, she has been a guest of several festivals and performed in most of London's major concert halls, as well as in Leeds, Cardiff, New York, Prague, Mumbai and in France. A passionate chamber musician, she has played with artists including Steven Isserlis, Midori and Krzysztof Chorzelski. Her first CD featuring a recording of Mozart's Triple Concerto with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra was released in 2018.

The study programmes offered by Kronberg Academy are considered the leading courses of their type for young soloists worldwide. For the 25 or so students enrolled at the Academy, these programmes provide tailor-made training, also in collaboration with Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts. Violin is taught at Kronberg Academy by Ana Chumachenco, Mihaela Martin, Christian Tetzlaff and Antje Weithaas, viola by Nobuko Imai and Tabea Zimmerman, and cello by Frans Helmerson and Wolfgang Emanuel Schmidt. As members of the Artistic Council, Marta Casals Istomin, Christoph Eschenbach, Gidon Kremer and Sir Andrés Schiff are closely involved in the students' development, which includes giving public performances with them.

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About Kronberg Academy

Kronberg Academy is a cultural institution unique within Europe that trains and sponsors highly gifted young musicians who play the violin, viola and cello. Renowned musicians such as Ana Chumachenco, Christian Tetzlaff, Tabea Zimmermann and Frans Helmerson are among the Academy's professors. There are some 25 places on the Bachelor's and Master's programmes at the Academy, with the degrees awarded by Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts. The Professional Studies and Precollege study programmes, as well as the study programme for pianists focusing on chamber music, enhance the range of courses on offer. Founded in 1993, the Academy is predominantly financed by private donations. Its Founder and Chairman of the Board is Raimund Trenkler and Prof. Dr Friedemann Eichhorn is its Artistic Director. The members of the Artistic Council are Marta Casals Istomin, Yuri Bashmet, Christoph Eschenbach, Gidon Kremer, Sir Andrés Schiff and Mstislav Rostropovich († 2007). In addition to running its study programmes, Kronberg Academy organises several concert projects and many other performances, as well as the internationally acclaimed Kronberg Academy Festival, which takes place every two years.

Press photos

Sir András Schiff

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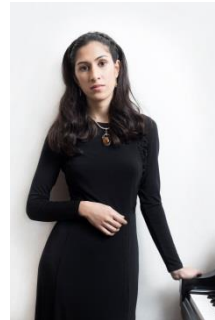
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Mishka Rushdie Momen (piano)

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Jean-Sélim Abdelmoula (piano)

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Biographies

Born in 1991, pianist and composer **Jean-Sélim Abdelmoula** initially studied piano with Christian Favre at the Haute École de Musique de Lausanne and then chamber music at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London with Ronan O'Hara, as well as composition with Julian Anderson. He has attended masterclasses with Ferenc Rados, Sir Andrés Schiff, Dénes Várjon, Mitsuko Uchida, Imogen Cooper, Stephen Hough, Angela Hewitt, Richard Goode and Leon Fleisher.

As a soloist, he has already performed in venues including Zurich's Tonhalle, Palau de la Música in Barcelona, Koerner Hall in Toronto, Sendesaal Bremen, Carnegie Hall in New York and at the Royal Festival Hall, Barbican Hall and Wigmore Hall in London. He has played in the "Building Bridges" series at the invitation of its creator, Sir Andrés Schiff, and been a guest of festivals such as the Ittingen Whitsun concerts, the Lucerne Festival and the Prussia Cove Open Chamber Music Seminar, as well as the Banff Artist in Residence Programme. For both his piano playing and his compositions, Jean-Sélim Abdelmoula has received many prestigious prizes, including the Guildhall Wigmore Recital Prize.

Jean-Sélim Abdelmoula's works are regularly performed by musicians including Heinz Holliger, Antje Weithaas and Patricia Kopatchinskaja and by ensembles such as the Orchestre de Chambre de Toulouse, the Swiss Chamber Soloists, Camerata Bern, the Zürcher Kammerorchester and Ensemble Séquence. He has also written music for numerous films, some of which have won awards.

Since October 2018, he has studied on the Sir Andrés Schiff Performance Programme for Young Pianists at Kronberg Academy. His studies are funded by the Henle Scholarship endowed by the Günter Henle Foundation.

Born in London in 1992, **Mishka Rushdie Momen** studied with Joan Havill and Imogen Cooper at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, and also with Richard Goode. More recently, she was invited by Sir Andrés Schiff to give concerts in Zurich, New York, Antwerp and several German and Italian cities as part of his "Building Bridges" concert series. A passionate chamber musician, she has already performed with Steven Isserlis, Midori, Krzysztof Chorzelski and members of the Endellion and Orion string quartets. She has given numerous solo recitals, including in London's Barbican Hall and other major concert venues, as well as in prestigious halls in France, Germany, New York, Prague and Mumbai. In 2016, Mishka Rushdie Momen was a guest of the Marlboro and Krzyzowa Music Festivals, and also took part in the Prussia Cove Open Chamber Music Seminar.

At the age of just 13, she won first prize in the Leschetizky Concerto Competition in New York. In 2013, she was awarded the Prix de l'Académie Maurice Ravel, ville de Saint-Jean-de-Luz, and first prize in the Dudley International Piano Competition, as well as second prize in the Cologne International Piano Competition.

Her first CD featuring a recording of Mozart's Triple Concerto with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra was released in 2018 by Somm Recordings.

Since October 2018, Mishka Rushdie Momen has studied on the Sir Andrés Schiff Performance Programme for Young Pianists at Kronberg Academy. Her studies are funded by the Henle Scholarship endowed by the Horizon Foundation.