

New students and tutors start the 2018/19 academic year at Kronberg Academy

To begin the new 2018/19 academic year, four new talented young musicians are taking up their studies at Kronberg Academy: Marie-Astrid Hulot (violin), La Li (cello) and the pianists Mishka Rushdie Momen and Jean-Sélim Abdelmoula. In addition – as already reported – pianists Kirill Gerstein, Ferenc Rados, Dénes Várjon and Rita Wagner are to join the Academy as new tutors on the Sir András Schiff Performance Programme for Young Pianists. To close the 2017/18 academic year, French cellist Bruno Philippe completed his studies at Kronberg Academy and joined the circle of alumni.

Marie-Astrid Hulot, born in France in 1997, studied with Annick Roussin and Olivier Charlier in Paris, and with Mihaela Martin in Cologne. Alongside successes in international competitions, she has gained orchestral experience as leader of the Orchestre Français des Jeunes under the batons of David Zinman and Denis Russell Davies, and as a soloist. Her debut CD, released in 2015, features works for solo violin. She is studying on the Professional Studies study programme at Kronberg Academy with Mihaela Martin.

La Li was born in Hangzhou, China, in 2002. She studied with Min Cao at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music as well as with Richard Aaron and Sieun Lin at the Juilliard School Precollege. She has won first prizes in the Osaka International Music Competition, the Antonio Janigro International Cello Competition (both in 2012) and the Fulham International Music Competition (2013). In 2014, she became the youngest ever cellist to win first prize in the International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians in Moscow. She is studying on the Kronberg Academy Precollege programme with Frans Helmerson.

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, also studying composition with Julian Anderson. He has received many prizes and scholarships for both his piano playing and his compositions. He is studying on the Sir András Schiff Performance Programme for Young Pianists at Kronberg Academy.

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. A multi-award-winning pianist, she is also a passionate chamber musician and 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. She is studying in Kronberg on the Sir András Schiff Performance Programme for Young Pianists.

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 Zimmermann, and cello by Frans Helmerson and Wolfgang Emanuel Schmidt. As members of the Artistic Council, Marta Casals Istomin, Christoph Eschenbach, Gidon Kremer and Sir

András Schiff are closely involved in the students' development, which includes giving public performances with them.

An overview of the study programmes, students and professors at Kronberg Academy can be found at www.kronbergacademy.de/en/education/.

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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 András 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

Marie-Astrid Hulot (violin)

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La Li (violoncello)

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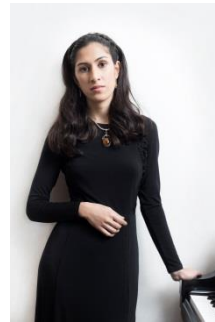
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Mishka Rushdie Momen (piano)

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Jean-Sélim Abdelmoula (piano)

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Biographies

Born in 1997, French violinist **Marie-Astrid Hulot** began playing the violin when she was four years old. After studying under Annick Roussin at the Conservatoire à rayonnement régional de Paris, at the age of 14 she gained a place in the class of Olivier Charlier at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris, and received her master's degree in 2017. From 2017 to 2018, she studied for her graduate recital with Mihaela Martin at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz in Cologne.

Marie-Astrid Hulot won second prize in the 2016 Dominique Peccatte International Violin Competition and in the 2017 Marie Cantagrill International Violin Competition. She was also awarded the Marteau prize in the 2017 International Violin Competition Henri Marteau. Alongside her competition successes, she gained orchestral experience as leader of the Orchestre Français des Jeunes under the batons of David Zinman and Denis Russell Davies. As a soloist, she has already performed with the orchestra of the Conservatoire de Paris and with the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia conducted by Vahan Mardirossian. Marie-Astrid Hulot is a regular guest of chamber music festivals in her native France. In 2013, she also worked with Pamela Franck, Nobuko Imai and others at the Seiji Ozawa International Chamber Music Academy.

2015 saw the release of her debut CD containing works for solo violin.

Since October 2018, she has been studying at Kronberg Academy with Mihaela Martin. Her studies are funded by the v. Opel/Dr. Schaefer Scholarship.

Cellist **La Li** was born in Hangzhou, China, in 2002 and began her musical education on the piano before transitioning to the cello at the age of seven. During these initial years, her teachers included Zhang Baojun and Cao Min, and at nine years old she was admitted to the primary school of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. In 2016, Richard L Aaron and Sieun Lin accepted her into their classes as a precollege student of the Juilliard School in New York. She gained further experience by attending masterclasses with renowned cellists such as Frans Helmerson, Natalia Gutman, Mischa Maisky, Lynn Harrell and David Geringas.

Even at a young age, La Li won first prizes in numerous international competitions. These include the 2011 International Music Competition in Osaka, the 2012 Antonio Janigro International Cello Competition in Zagreb, the Fulham International Music Competition in Paris, and the 2014 International Tchaikovsky Competition for young musicians in Moscow, from which she emerged as the youngest ever winner.

La Li was invited to perform at the Verbier Festival and at the 5th Mini Verbier Festival in Munich. She has given concerts with orchestras such as the Zhejiang Symphony Orchestra, the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, the Shanghai Opera House Symphony Orchestra, the Moscow Virtuosi and the New Russia State Symphony Orchestra.

Since October 2018, she has been studying at Kronberg Academy with Frans Helmerson. Her studies are funded by the Lore Buscher Scholarship.

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.