



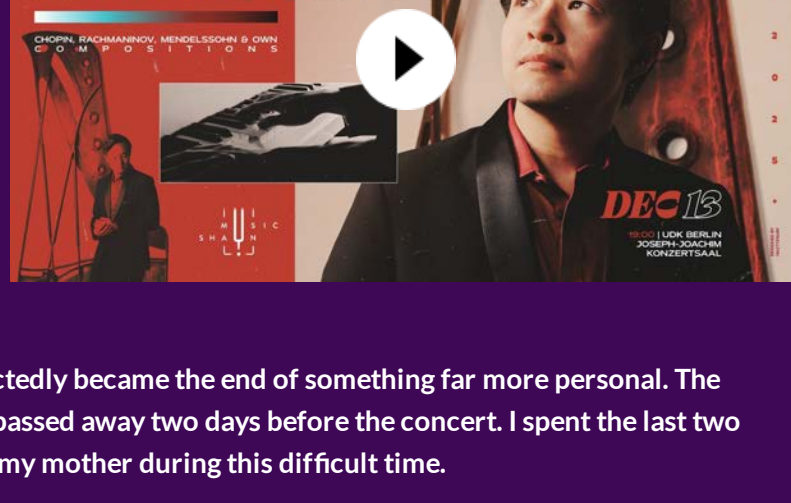
# FIMA 2026

22-31 JULY | BERLIN, GERMANY

## PIANO & STRINGS

Dear Fiestravaganza & MusicShaun supporters,

On 13 December 2025 — exactly two decades after I first left my home country of Singapore to pursue my musical journey in Europe — I reached an important milestone. From my pre-college years at the Mozarteum Salzburg to my postgraduate studies at the University of the Arts Berlin, this chapter culminated in my graduation recital, *Romantics in Retrospect*, performed to a full house in Berlin. It was a deeply memorable evening, made even more special by so many of you who came to support me in person.



What was meant to mark the end of my studies, however, unexpectedly became the end of something far more personal. The following day, I received the devastating news that my father had passed away two days before the concert. I spent the last two months back home with my family, settling affairs and being with my mother during this difficult time.

Over the years, I have been fortunate to reach many milestones — including thirteen international piano competition prizes — yet none has been as meaningful to me as the work we have built together through Fiestravaganza. For this reason, I also felt it was important to share why the launch of this year's academy was delayed.

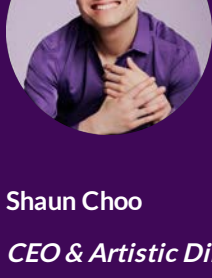
With that said, I am beyond thrilled to announce that FIMA 2026 is now officially open for registrations!

This year's edition brings several exciting developments: a new cooperation with the Goethe-Institut Berlin, deluxe accommodation for two at our partner hotel (now embedded in all our packages), and the launch of the Strings Enhanced (Concerto) category for Violin, Viola, and Cello participants.

FIMA continues to exist thanks to the participation and support of our community. As an independent initiative without state funding, supported only by a few loyal sponsors who have been with us from the very beginning, your engagement truly makes this project possible.

If you know musicians who might benefit from this opportunity, we would be deeply grateful if you could help spread the word and encourage them to apply. For those who have attended FIMA before, we hope to see you again!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



Shaun Choo  
CEO & Artistic Director of Fiestravaganza gUG

## ABOUT FIMA 2026



WATCH THE FIESTRAVAGANZA INTERNATIONAL MUSIC ACADEMY OFFICIAL TRAILER (2024 EDITION)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

### FIEMA 2026 IN A NUTSHELL

- Individual Masterclasses & Workshops**  
Participants receive multiple solo masterclasses and group workshops designed to refine technique, interpretation, and artistic direction.
- Chamber Music Coaching & Performances**  
Participants collaborate in chamber ensembles with professional coaching and perform in public concerts as part of the festival program.
- Solo Performance Opportunities**  
All participants perform in official academy concerts held in major concert halls in Berlin.
- Concerto Performance with Orchestra (Enhanced Participants)**  
Enhanced category participants have the opportunity to rehearse and perform a concerto movement with Camerata Fiestravaganza, including a professional live recording.
- Strings Program**  
Violin, viola, and cello participants receive intensive coaching, chamber music collaboration, and orchestral playing opportunities alongside the piano program.
- German Cultural & Language Enrichment Activities**  
In cooperation with the Goethe-Institut Berlin, participants take part in cultural and language activities designed to deepen their connection with the city.
- Historic Instrument Experience**  
Participants may have the opportunity to perform on instruments from Bechstein's Vintage Keyboard Collection, including historical *Playel* and *Hammerklavier* instruments.
- Luxury Accommodation Included**  
All participants receive 14 days of accommodation for up to two people at the KPM Hotel & Residences during the academy period.
- Closing Celebration Event**  
The academy concludes with a festive afterparty with complimentary dinner and drinks for all participants.
- Professional Video Recording (Optional Add-on)**  
Participants may book a studio-quality video recording session with a professional engineer.

## MEET THE 2026 PIANO FACULTY

**BJÖRN LEHMANN**  
Vice Dean of Music & Head of Piano at the University of the Arts Berlin

**CHRISTIAN PETERSEN**  
Piano Professor at the University of the Arts Berlin

**LUCAS BLONDEEL**  
Piano and Fortepiano Professor at the University of the Arts Berlin

**SHAUN CHOO**  
Multiple Award-Winning Classical Pianist, Composer and Teacher

## MEET THE 2026 STRINGS FACULTY

**GREGOR SIGL (VIOLIN/VIOLA)**  
Professor for Chamber Music, Violin and Viola at the University of the Arts Berlin | Member of the Artemis Quartet

**CHARLOTTE THIELE (VIOLIN)**  
Concert Master of the Camerata Fiestravaganza

**KAROLINA PAWUL (VIOLA)**  
Principal Violist of the Camerata Fiestravaganza | Member of the Fiestravaganza Ensemble

**OLIVIA MEISER (CELLO)**  
Principal Cellist of the Camerata Fiestravaganza | Member of the Fiestravaganza Ensemble

## RESIDENT CONDUCTOR

**EVAN-ALEXIS CHRIST**  
World-Renowned Conductor of Opera & Symphonic Works | Resident Conductor of the Camerata Fiestravaganza

Evan-Alexis Christ is an American conductor of Greek descent, internationally recognized for his work in opera, symphonic repertoire, and innovative concert programming.

Born in Los Angeles and raised in Las Vegas, he studied mathematics and composition at Harvard University and conducting at the Leipzig Conservatory of Music.

He has worked extensively with leading orchestras and opera houses in Germany and abroad and has appeared at major international festivals. His operatic repertoire includes more than sixty productions, ranging from Mozart to Wagner and Strauss.

From 2008 to 2018, Christ served as Music Director of the Brandenburg State Opera in Cottbus, where he significantly expanded the orchestra's artistic profile and international presence.

In addition to his conducting career, he is deeply committed to education and regularly leads masterclasses and projects with young musicians in international academies.

## CAMERATA FIESTRAVAGANZA

Camerata Fiestravaganza is the resident orchestra of FIMA, with over 50 personally-selected extraordinary musicians. Spanning diverse cultures and ethnicities, the majority of the orchestra members are students or alumni from the three major Universities of music in Berlin — Universität der Künste, Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler and Barenboim-Said Akademie. Every summer, the orchestra performs a marathon of piano & string concertos, featuring young soloists from all over the world.



## FIESTRAVAGANZA ENSEMBLE

The Fiestravaganza Ensemble, a piano quartet from Berlin, consists of Shaun Choo (piano), Aoi Salto (violin), Karolina Pawul (viola) and Olivia Meiser (cello). The members met at the UdK Berlin and deepened their collaboration through their roles in the Camerata Fiestravaganza. The ensemble's repertoire spans classical to more alternative works, including original compositions, and lends the piano quartet repertoire a modern perspective. With unique programs and their dynamic personality, the ensemble delights audiences and critics alike.

## 7 CONCERTS



Opening Gala "Concerto Fiestravaganza"  
22 July, 7PM



Intermezzo Gala "Concerto Fiestravaganza"  
26 July, 6PM



Class Concert (Internal)  
27 July, 7PM



Chamber Music Concert  
28 July, 7PM



Solo Recital  
29 July, 7PM



Closing Gala "Concerto Fiestravaganza"  
31 July, 7PM



Concert @ KPM Courtyard  
1 August, 7PM

## LOCATIONS

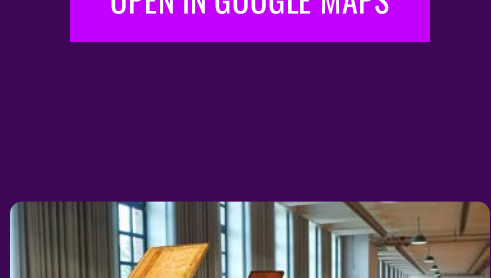
### PIANO MASTERCLASSES | WORKSHOPS

#### Bechstein Spandau

OPEN IN GOOGLE MAPS



Carl Bechstein Hall



Vintage Keyboard Instruments Collection



Piano Studios

### CONCERTS | STRING/CHAMBER COACHING

#### UdK Berlin



UdK Berlin Concert Hall



UdK Joseph-Joachim Hall



UdK Chamber/Choir Halls

OPEN IN GOOGLE MAPS

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## ACCOMMODATION

Ensuring that all participants feel safe and comfortable during FIMA is a key priority, which also extends to accompanying parents. For this reason, we have partnered with KPM Hotel & Residences, a luxurious boutique hotel under the Marriott Bonvoy brand.



KPM Hotel & Residences  
(Engelke Straße 6, 10587 Berlin)

OPEN IN GOOGLE MAPS

Accommodation is included in the participation fee and consists of a private double room per participant, suitable for single occupancy or shared with one accompanying parent. Family rooms for up to three adults are available upon request for an additional fee.

Opened in September 2019, the hotel combines comfort and distinctive design and is ideally located at the northern entrance of the Great Tiergarten, close to many of Berlin's key attractions. With the S-Bahn station *Tiergarten* just a short walk away, guests can easily access the city. The hotel's 126 bright rooms offer modern amenities and a peaceful retreat for participants during their stay.



## APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!

Standard Registration Deadline: 31 May 2026  
Late Registration Period: 1-22 June 2026

CLICK FOR MORE INFO

### IN COLLABORATION WITH



### SUPPORTED BY

