

Sixteen-year-old pianist **Tristen Chen** began his musical journey at the age of three. He attends the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre-College, where he majors in piano under the tutelage of Sandra Wright Shen.

Tristen has garnered numerous accolades in piano competitions. He received 1st place at the New York International Music Competition; 2nd place at Twelfth Stockholm International Music Competition; 2nd place at United States International Music Competition; 3rd place at Silicon Valley Open Doors International Piano Competition in 2025. He was awarded the silver medal at the 2024 San Francisco International Piano Competition (Junior Artist) and was named the Northern California 1st Alternate in the 2024 MTAC Concerto Competition. In 2023 and 2022, he received 1st prizes at the US Open Music Competition in both solo and duo categories. Earlier achievements include 1st prizes at the USIMC Young Artist Award and Chinese Music Award in 2018, as well as 1st place and Best Performer at the US New Star Etude Competition. Tristen was twice recognized as an Outstanding Performer at the Junior Bach Festival in 2022 and 2019.

In 2024, Tristen was featured on NPR's "From The Top," performing Liszt's La Leggerezza. He also won 1st prize in the MasterWorks Festival Concerto Competition in 2024, leading to a performance of Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Masterworks Orchestra.

Tristen has been invited to perform at various prestigious events and venues, including San Jose NoonArts & Lectures, Steinway Society, Cadence Collective Foundation fundraising concert, at Carnegie Weill Recital Hall and at the opening ceremonies of the Sonoma International Film Festival in 2019 and 2018.

His musical development has been further enriched through participation in Aspen Music Festival and School where he studied with Professor Arie Vardi (2025), Bay PianoFest (2025), chamber music studies at the California Music Preparatory Academy (2023-2024), MasterWorks Festival (2021-2024), and John Perry Academy of Music Summer Festival (2017 & 2018). Tristen has had the opportunity to participate in masterclasses led by renowned artists such as Yoshikazu Nagai, Polina Osetinskaya, Douglas Humpherys, Jerome Lowenthal, HieYon Choi, Veda Kaplinsky, Anton Nel, Jon Nakamatsu, John Perry, Ning An, Slava Gryaznov, Wael Farouk, Anna Fedorova, Melinda Lee Masur, Xun Pan, Siheng Song, Lishan Hung, and Heidi Williams.

Beyond his musical pursuits, Tristen enjoys composing, singing, and embracing humor and the thrill of a good roller coaster ride.