

*pianist*  
*Ariel Chien*



Nineteen-year-old pianist Ariel Chien began her piano studies at age eight with Megan Chen and later continued with Daniel Cheng. Since 2021, she has studied with Sandra Wright Shen at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre-College and currently continues her piano performance studies under her guidance at Stanford University.

Ariel is a 3-time Scholarship Recipient of the Chopin Foundation of the United States and a winner of the 2024 National YoungArts in Classical Music/Piano. She is the prizewinner of numerous piano competitions, including Laureate of the Ross McKee Foundation Piano Competition, third prize of the Arthur Fraser International Piano Competition, second prize of Marilyn Mindell Piano Concerto Competition, first prize of piano showcase of United States Open Music Competition, and top prize winner of the 2018-2020 and 2023 United States International Music Competition (USIMC). She was selected as the First Alternate Contestant for the 2025 National Chopin Piano Competition.

Ariel recently performed the complete 24 Preludes by Chopin at the Old First Concerts Series in San Francisco and was invited by the San Jose Ballet to perform a selection of Chopin's Preludes in the production "Fast Forward" at Hammer Theater in San Jose, working in collaboration with the choreographer and dancers. In summer 2025, Ariel was a performing artist at the San Francisco International Piano Festival. As a Chopin enthusiast, she has performed three solo recitals featuring all Chopin programs, including a performance and lecture at NoonArts and Lectures and solo recitals at SFCM and Luzhou KHS Concert Hall in Taiwan. As the winner of the Golden State Youth Orchestra Piano Concerto Competition, she performed Chopin Concerto No. 1 with the Camilla Kolchinsky Orchestra in the 2022-23 season. She was invited and performed at the San Francisco Symphony Silicon Valley League opening concert in 2022.

Ariel has participated in several music summer festivals, including the Frost Chopin Festival, the Southeastern Piano Festival, the Music@Menlo Young Performers Program, and the PianoTexas International Festival and Academy. She has performed in masterclasses and received instruction from acclaimed pianists, including Yuja Wang, Garrick Ohlsson, Emanuel Ax, Dang Tai Son, Jon Nakamatsu, John Perry, Ann Schein, Katarzyna Popawa-Zydron, and Kevin Kenner.