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Duo Jiayi-April

Jiayi Chen, violin
April Siyue Zhang, piano

Duo Jiayi–April is a Vienna-based violin–piano ensemble distinguished by its refined musical sensitivity and strong artistic cohesion. Prizewinners of major international chamber music competitions, they have been awarded First Prize and the “Best Performance of Vainiūnas Compositions” Prize at the International Stasys Vainiūnas Piano Ensembles Competition in Vilnius, as well as Second Prize at the Ilmari Hannikainen Piano Chamber Music Competition in Jyväskylä, where they performed Mendelssohn’s Double Concerto in the final round with Jyväskylä Sinfonia.

Formed in 2019 at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, the duo is currently based at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (mdw), where they work with Johannes Meissl, Avedis Kouyoumdjian and Ulf Wallin. They are members of the mdw Junge Talent Project and have received the Piano Chamber Music Award and the Viennese Classicism Award at the isa – International Summer Academy of the mdw (2023). In 2024, they were selected to participate in the European Chamber Music Academy (ECMA).

Recent appearances include performances at the Queen Elisabeth International Violin Competition and the Princess Astrid International Violin Competition, as well as their European debut recital at the Schubert’s birthplace in Vienna. Their artistic focus centers on the Classical and Romantic repertoire, alongside a growing engagement with 20th-century and Central and Eastern European works.

Program 1

Intimate Voices: Four Perspectives on Musical Closeness

This program explores different forms of musical intimacy, not as a stylistic trait, but as something that emerges from within the relationship between the two instruments. Across four distinct voices, closeness is continuously redefined, through connection, expansion, fragmentation, and return.

Franz Schubert

Sonata for Violin and Piano in A Major, D 574 (20')

Karol Szymanowski

Myths, Op. 30 (20')

Intermission

Francis Poulenc

Violin Sonata, FP 119 (19')

Johannes Brahms

Violin Sonata No.1 in G Major, Op. 78 (26')

Program 2

Pushing the Dialogue: From Balance to Tension

Beginning with the clarity of classical dialogue, this program traces how musical interaction is gradually stretched, destabilized, and transformed. Rather than following stylistic chronology, it reveals how tension emerges from within the dialogue itself, reaching its limits in increasingly complex and fragmented forms.

Ludwig van Beethoven

Sonata for Piano and Violin No.6 in A Major, Op. 30/1 (22')

Arnold Schönberg

Phantasy, Op. 47 (9')

Intermission

George Enescu

Violin Sonata No.3 in A Minor, Op. 25 (26')

Sergei Prokofiev

Violin Sonata No.1 in F minor, Op. 80 (28')

Program 3

Echoes Across Landscapes: Reimagining Tradition

This program brings together Northern and Eastern European voices, exploring how musical tradition is continuously reshaped across different cultural and sonic landscapes. Rather than presenting fixed stylistic identities, each work reflects a personal transformation of inherited forms, where lyricism, folklore, and structure are reimagined from within.

Edvard Grieg

Violin Sonata No.2 in G Major, Op. 13 (22')

Stasys Vainiūnas

Sonata for Violin and Piano, Op. 38 (19')

Intermission

Karol Szymanowski

Myths, Op. 30 (20')

George Enescu

Violin Sonata No.3 in A Minor, Op. 25 (26')