

Gabrielle Chou, D.M.A.

Pianist & Violinist | Performing & Teaching Artist

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Summary

Gabrielle Chou is a New York-based pianist and violinist seeking to defy genres and break barriers in music education and performance tradition. On both instruments she performs solo, chamber music, and in large ensembles, teaches and coaches chamber music, improvises, collaborates with composers, dancers, and actors, premieres new works, and is active in community engagement and activism. Gabrielle specializes in chamber and contemporary music, and is passionate about creating dynamic, multi-disciplinary artistic experiences. Her D.M.A. dissertation, "Play Makes Perfect: An Exploration of Game and Play Elements in Composition and Performance" explores the intersection of ludology and music and coins the term "ludic piece" to describe musical works that contain play structures. In addition to her doctorate, Gabrielle received her M.M. and B.M. degrees from The Juilliard School. She currently works at Juilliard's Music Advancement Program within the Preparatory Division, in addition to coaching chamber music at the New York Youth Symphony and teaching music history at Baruch College.

Gabrielle's teachers include Jerome Lowenthal and Richard Goode on piano, and Lewis Kaplan on violin. She has been a piano and violin soloist with orchestras in the US, Austria, Italy, Spain, and Taiwan, and has performed in venues including David Geffen Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Weill Hall and Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall, Taipei National Theater and Concert Hall. Additionally, she has premiered works at The Juilliard School, The Yale School of Music, National Sawdust, and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Gabrielle is on the roster of the Center of Musical Excellence and was the winner of their 2018 International Performing Arts Grant; she is also a member of the New York-based Metropolis Ensemble and the Miami-based Nu Deco Ensemble and on the artist rosters of After Arts, Concerts for Compassion, Protestra, and Sound Off: Music for Bail. She is a founding member of Away From Keyboard, a chamber music collective dedicated to composer collaborations and interactive and ludic pieces.

Education

DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS | GRADUATE CENTER, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK | 2023

- Dissertation "Play Makes Perfect: Game and Play Elements in Composition and Performance" explores play structures in musical works through a ludologic lens
- Music Performance major, advised by Norman Carey and studied under Jerome Lowenthal and Richard Goode
- Served on the Executive Committee, the main decision-making body of the Music department
- Graduate Center Fellowship recipient

MASTER OF MUSIC | THE JUILLIARD SCHOOL | 2018

- Accepted into the Accelerated BM/MM program, completing BM and MM degrees in five years
- A. & C. Levy Scholarship, Natalie and Bernard Selinger Scholarship, and Susan W. Rose Fellowship recipient
- Studied piano with Jerome Lowenthal and violin with Lewis Kaplan
- Participated in the Juilliard-Barnard-Columbia Exchange Program
- Played in the Juilliard Orchestra as a pianist and in the Lab Orchestra as a violinist

BACHELOR OF MUSIC | THE JUILLIARD SCHOOL | 2017

- Accepted on both piano and violin
- Studied piano with Jerome Lowenthal and violin with Lewis Kaplan
- Participated in the Juilliard-Barnard-Columbia Exchange Program

DIPLOMA | THE COLBURN MUSIC ACADEMY | 2011-13

- Marilyn Caldwell scholar on piano and violin

Positions

CHAMBER MUSIC COACH | NEW YORK YOUTH SYMPHONY | 2023-PRESENT

- Ensemble coach for the Grammy-winning New York Youth Symphony's Chamber Music Program, a nationally-renowned program consisting of around 100 students each year, ages 12-22
- Responsible for scheduling rehearsals and coachings; preparing ensembles for workshops, masterclasses, and performances; hosting studio classes; adjudicating juries; and corresponding with the Director regarding programming and events
- Coaches and conducts sectionals for the Crescendo orchestra

STAFF PIANIST, SUBSTITUTE COACH AND TEACHER | THE JUILLIARD SCHOOL | 2018-PRESENT

- Staff pianist and coach for the Music Advancement Program in Juilliard's Preparatory Division
- Plays and performs for lessons, studio classes, masterclasses, juries, student recitals, and faculty recitals
- Also substitutes for lessons, chamber coachings, secondary piano, and keyboard skills classes in the College division and Pre-College program

ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR | BARUCH COLLEGE | 2018-PRESENT

- Instructor within the Fine and Performing Arts Department for Music in Civilization and Principles of Music courses, both lecture classes that comprise of music appreciation, fundamentals, and music history from the Middle Ages through the present day
- Responsible for 90-150 students each semester, with smaller classes during the summer semester
- Collaborates with the resident Alexander String Quartet to produce a string quartet lecture recital for students
- Courses have been taught synchronously and asynchronously online, in addition to in person

TEACHING FELLOW AND TEACHING ASSISTANT | THE JUILLIARD SCHOOL | 2015-2023

- Teaching Fellow for Secondary Piano courses of all levels, comprising of keyboard harmony and gaining fluency and confidence at the keyboard, required for all non-keyboard majors
- Duties include designing course and syllabus, teaching each class, administering and grading tests, maintaining the keyboard labs, and email communication with students and the head of the keyboard skills department
- Assistant for Dr. Sharon Levy in Piano Literature I & II, required courses for piano majors
- Duties included administering and grading tests, email communication with students, proofreading assignment drafts from students, collecting scores for classes, and setting up classroom technology

Ensembles and Rosters

- Away From Keyboard (co-founder), 2023-present
- Concerts for Compassion, 2023-present
- After Arts Featured Artists, 2022-present
- Metropolis Ensemble, 2021-present
- Protestra, 2021-present

- The Center for Musical Excellence, 2018-present
- Nu Deco Ensemble, 2018-present
- Conduit, 2019-2020
- AXIOM (Juilliard), 2016-2017
- SPEAKmusic (Juilliard and Columbia University), 2014-2015

Private Teachers and Coaches

- Piano: Jerome Lowenthal, Richard Goode, Ory Shihor, Tian Ying, Maria Gomez
- Violin: Lewis Kaplan, Danielle Belen, Cheryl Kim, Carol Cole
- Chamber music: Emanuel Ax, Timothy Eddy, Joseph Kalichstein, Joel Krosnick, Robert Levin, Jon Manasse, Ursula Oppens, Matti Raekallio, Marcy Rosen, Sylvia Rosenberg
- Master Classes and Lessons: Martha Argerich, Jeremy Denk, Leon Fleisher, Alan Gilbert, Lang Lang, Robert Levin, Robert Lipsett, Meng-Chieh Liu, Robert McDonald, Robert McDuffie, John O’Conor, Murray Perahia, John Perry, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Susan Starr

Festivals and Residencies

- Artist in Residence at pianoSonoma and pianoSonoma in Monterey, 2024
- Associate Piano Faculty Artist, Sarasota Music Festival, 2024
- Fellowship Artist at Mostly Modern Festival | The Netherlands on violin, 2024
- Piano faculty at the Sphinx Performance Academy at The Juilliard School, 2022-2023
- Pianist and violinst in residence at CME Vienna, the Altenburger Musik Akademie, 2021
- Artist-in-residence at the Avaloch Music Institute, 2019
- Pianosummer at New Paltz, 2017
- Next Festival of Emerging Artists on piano and violin, 2017
- Music Academy of the West as a Solo Piano fellow and MERIT mentor, 2016
- Pianofest in the Hamptons, 2015
- Music Mountain Chamber Music Masterclasses on piano and violin, 2015
- Sarasota Music Festival on piano, 2013 and 2015
- European American Musical Alliance’s Nadia Boulanger Institute on piano and violin, 2014
- Colburn Young Artists Academy Summer Piano Festival, 2013
- Valencia International Piano Academy, 2013
- Aspen Music Festival and School on piano, 2010, and as a violin fellow, 2011-2012
- Indiana University String Summer Camp on violin, 2003-2004

Honors, Awards, Competitions

- Winner of the Center for Musical Excellence’s 2018 International Performing Arts Grant
- Silver medal, 6th Yamaha USASU International Senior Piano Competition
- Bronze medal, USASU 5th Bosendorfer/Schimmel International Piano Competition
- Jury prize, 21st Concorso Internazionale per Pianoforte e Orchestra Citta Di Cantu
- 2nd prize, The American Prize solo division
- Merit award, YoungArts
- Winner, Young Composers’ Challenge
- Winner, Marilyn Caldwell Piano Solo Award by the National Federation of Music Clubs
- Recipient, Chopin Foundation Scholarship
- Recipient, NFMCC Summer Music Center Award for the Aspen Music Festival and School
- Marilyn Caldwell scholar at the Colburn Young Artists Academy
- Honorable Mention, 10th Ettlingen International Competition for Young Pianists

- Honorable Mention, 1st Korea International Competition for Young Pianists
- Honorable Mention, 2nd Manchester International Piano Concerto Competition
- Laureate, National Composition Competition by the National Federation of Music Clubs
- Laureate, 12th International Taipei Chopin Piano Competition
- Laureate, 2011 Blount-Slawson Young Artists Competition
- Laureate, Bang & Olufsen PianoRAMA-Competition

Performance Highlights

- Solo performances as a pianist and/or violinist with the South Florida Philharmonic, Coral Gables Chamber Symphony, Broward Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta Conservatorio Sup. "Salvador Seguí", Mihail Jora Philharmonic Orchestra of Bacau, Vienna International Orchestra, and National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra
- Recital performances in the US, Austria, Denmark, England, Germany, Italy, Korea, Spain, and Taiwan
- Performed chamber music and as a concerto soloist on piano and violin with the Vienna International Orchestra as an artist-in-residence at the Altenburger Musik Akademie
- Performed in Biophony, a festival in collaboration between Metropolis Ensemble and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden as a program of Make Music New York
- Performed in the Juilliard Orchestra at David Geffen Hall as part of Alan Gilbert's final New York concert
- Performed as a part of Juilliard group AXIOM for Steve Reich's 80th birthday celebration concert
- Performed in Juilliard programs such as ChamberFest, PianoScope, and other showcases
- Performances in David Geffen Hall, Alice Tully Hall, the Stern Auditorium and Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall, National Sawdust, Symphony Space, the Morgan Library & Museum, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, La Schola Cantorum, and the Taipei National Theater & Concert Hall
- Invited by the Chopin Foundation of the United States to perform as a two-time scholarship recipient

Community Engagement and Activism

- Performances with activist orchestra Protestra, raising funds and awareness for issues such as climate change and gun control
- Performances and programming with Sound Off: Music for bail to raise funds and awareness of the US bail system
- Performances for the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) in New York in collaboration with the Omomuki Foundation
- Served as a MERIT (Music Education Reinforces Intellect and Talent) mentor and coach at the 2016 Music Academy of the West, giving daily chamber music coachings, piano lessons, and violin lessons, as well as public chamber music masterclasses and mentoring to middle- and high- school community students
- Presented educational and interactive showcases at the Opportunity Music Project in 2015 as part of a Juilliard student-led music and dance collective
- Taught piano and violin as part of a partnership between the Colburn Music Academy and Para Los Niños, giving one-on-one and group lessons as well as organizing a showcase concert at the end of each semester

Additional Skills

- Conservatory-level knowledge of music history, theory, ear training, literature, and repertoire
- Unique perspective on music and repertoire due to playing two instruments
- Proficient with software including Microsoft Office, Google Docs, Sibelius, and Photoshop
- Proficient with classroom and online teaching technologies such as Zoom, Canvas and Blackboard