Celebrating 22nd Season

北京国际音乐大师班艺术节

BEIJING INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL & ACADEMY

August 8-19, 2026

Beijing, China

~ Cultural Harmony Through Music ~

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Since its inception in the year 2004, **Beijing International Music Festival & Academy (BIMFA)** has become one of the most important and integral parts of classical music in the People's Republic of China. For two weeks each August, professional musicians and student participants from China and around the world gather in the historic capital of Beijing to celebrate and share their gift of music.

The first and only annual international summer music festival of its kind in today's China, BIMFA will take place to celebrate its 22nd season from August 8 to 19, 2026 in Beijing, China. Open to ***Pianists, String Players, Guitarists, and selected Woodwind Instrumentalists*** of all nationalities, BIMFA brings together established performing artists, pedagogues and music students around the world in a unique collaboration to promote *"Cultural Harmony Through Music".*

In addition, BIMFA's extensive cultural and excursion programs offer participants multiple opportunities for exploration and discovery in this ancient capital Beijing. It is truly an unforgettable experience of a lifetime in both music and culture for those seeking to explore their fullest potentials in life.

Program

BIMFA offers an intensive schedule, focusing on close student-faculty collaboration through individual and ensemble studies, public performance and competitions, including

- *4 or more individual lessons and master classes with world-renowned master teachers*
- *Chamber coaching & ensemble classes*
- *Additional opportunities to participate in master classes and lectures*
- *Free All-inclusive admissions to Festival Concert Series by BIMFA artist-faculty and acclaimed guest-artists*
- *All-inclusive Festival pass to observe master classes, individual teaching and chamber music coaching*
- *Multiple opportunities for individuals and selected ensembles in public performances, including Gala Concerts, Young Artists' Concerts, and Noon Showcases*
- *Eligible to enter BIMFA Chamber Competition for festival participants of all instruments*
- *Eligible to enter BIMFA Solo Piano Competitions (Junior & Senior divisions) for all qualified pianists*
- *Award winners to be presented in the Gala Finale Concert as well as future festival concert series*

Faculty

BIMFA artist-faculty is comprised of celebrated international and Chinese artists and pedagogues from prestigious music schools, conservatories and universities around the world and in China.

Participants

BIMFA is open to ***Pianists, String (violin, viola, cello & bass), Guitarists*** and ***selected Woodwind players*** of all nationalities, including college/graduate students, high school and middle school students as well as young professionals. Gifted young musicians under age 10 may be considered ONLY if a parent or adult guardian can accompany them during the festival. All participants are accepted after evaluation of their applications and audition materials. BIMFA enthusiastically welcomes the participation by ***Amateur adult musicians, Youth groups, Special students*** for the extraordinary experience of music making while surrounded by one of the most fascinating cultures of the world. Please send email inquiry for group discounts to: info@bimfa.org

Competitions

Annual *BIMFA Competitions* offer festival participants special opportunities for public recognition and performance during the festival and beyond. All festival participants are welcome and encouraged to enter the *Solo Piano Competition* and *Chamber-Ensemble Competition* according to their appropriate age groups. The winners will receive cash awards and certificates, and will be presented in the Gala Finale Concert.

Venue

BIMFA will be in residence at The China Soong Ching Ling Science & Culture Centre for Young People in the western part of Beijing. International participants shall arrive on 8/7 and leave on 8/20. Participants will stay in the SCL Centre Hotel, equipped with air-conditioning and private bathroom with shower; two to three participants share a unit, and meals are served daily in the cafeteria.

Beijing 3-day Cultural Excursions (8/17-8/19)

The historic city of **Beijing** is the capital of China and the country's cultural, political and transportation center. It is the second largest Chinese city with a population of more than 20 million. Served as the capital for four Chinese dynasties and the host city for the 2008 Olympic Games, Beijing possesses unparalleled scenic and historical sites that inspire exploration leading to better understanding of Chinese history and culture. As a special part of cultural experience, BIMFA organizes excursions (*definite) for participants in the Beijing vicinity from the following list, and all excursion expenses (site main entrance admission, local transportation, local tour guide and translators) are ***included*** in the festival full program fees.

1. *The Great Wall of China**
2. *Forbidden City (Palace Museum) & Tiananmen Square**
3. *Summer Palace / or Temple of Heaven*
4. *Hutong Tour / Drum Tower Visit*

Application Procedures

All regular applications must include the following:

- A completed application form
- Applicant's video audition link(s) (YouTube / Bilibili links preferred) consists of free repertoire, minimum of two contrasting pieces/movements and approximately 10-15 minutes in length to determine applicant's placement and level of proficiency
- A letter of recommendation from your current teacher (ONLY required if you do not study regularly with a member of BIMFA faculty). We do accept email recommendation sent directly from teacher's email account to info@bimfa.org
- The non-refundable application fee **plus a deposit of $300 USD** (*Please see fees and payment schedule below)
- *Please note: Scholarship applicant **MUST** strictly follow the separate "BIMFA Scholarship Application Guidelines" to complete the scholarship application

To expedite the application process, we recommend that whenever possible you submit all required materials by e-mail (info@bimfa.org) by the application deadlines listed below. Upon receipt of your audition materials, BIMFA will provide the festival account information for the required application and deposit fees. We encourage all interested candidates to apply as early as possible.

Please note that the application process for participation is ongoing until all spaces are filled, and the notification of acceptance is generally sent via email in early March, or thereafter within 2 weeks upon receipt of one's complete application materials, fees and deposit.

Merit Scholarship

Merit scholarship and financial assistance is available for highly qualified applicants who participate in the full 2-week festival. ***A written request*** for merit scholarship assistance along with your application, audition video, recommendation letter PLUS the non-refundable $75 application fee must be received by the scholarship deadline ***January 31*** before an evaluation can take place, ***regardless*** of whether or not you already study with a member of BIMFA faculty. Please refer and follow carefully the detailed "BIMFA Scholarship Application Guidelines" accessible online to complete your scholarship application. Please note we will NOT consider or process any incomplete application.

*Scholarship for international participants may still be available at this time, inquiry by email for the latest update

Fees, Payments Schedule & Refund Policy

Non-refundable application fees & deadlines

- **No application fee** is required for former BIMFA participant (non-scholarship applicant), auditors, and accompanying parents
- **January 31 - $75** **Scholarship/early application deadline for all*
- **February 28 - $100**
- **March 31 - $125**
- **April 1 and after - $150** **Late application are accepted until all spaces are filled*

2026 Program Fees

Program Fees for International Student Participant

- ***$3400 USD; Full 2-week program including 3-day Beijing cultural excursions***
  Inclusive of deposit, full tuition, room & board, banquet meals, solo piano & chamber-ensemble competitions, festival pass to all festival activities, concert-series admission, practice facility, festival local transportation & airport transfers, 3-day Beijing cultural excursions

Program Fees for International Auditor & Parent

- ***$1700 USD; Full 2-week program including 3-day Beijing cultural excursions****
  Inclusive of deposit, room/board, banquet meals, festival pass to all festival activities, concert-series admission, festival local transportation & airport transfers, 3-day Beijing cultural excursions

  *Auditor and accompanying parent(s) only need to fill out the "BIMFA auditor/parent application form" along with the required application deposit

Payment Schedule

- All applications **MUST** include a non-refundable application fee plus the refundable deposit of **$300*** with the complete application materials before an evaluation can take place
- BIMFA remaining balance is due on **June 1**, or thereafter within two-weeks of the receipt of festival's official acceptance letter
- All payments should be made directly to the festival account by electronic payment options; the detailed instruction for online payment will be emailed to you upon receipt of your complete e-application and supporting materials

SPECIAL NOTE: The $300 deposit, applicable toward the total program fees, will be fully REFUNDED if you are not accepted by the festival or decide not to participate. However, a written request for deposit refund MUST be sent to info@bimfa.org before **June 1,** or it shall be forfeited with NO exception.

Refund Policy

- Absolutely NO deposit refund after **June 1**
- The remaining balance of paid program fee is fully refundable before **July 1**
- The remaining balance of paid program fee is 50% refundable before **July 20**
- Absolutely NO refund of any kind for cancellation made after **July 20**

FLIGHT, VISA & TRAVEL INFORMATION

Some of the major airlines offer direct and connecting flights from the United States to Beijing:
Air China, United, American, Delta, Air Canada, China Eastern Airline, Korean Airlines, Asiana Airlines, Japan Airlines, Cathay Pacific Airline and others. Please consult directly with your local travel agent or airlines for complete details.

NOTE: Participants are fully responsible for their own airfare, passport costs, Chinese visa fees, medical and travel insurance, other travel and personal expenses, etc. If you have travel-related questions or in need of assistance, please email us at: info@bimfa.org

To apply for **a Chinese Entry Visa** (required for most foreign citizens visiting China), please contact the Chinese embassy and consulates in your own country. If you reside and wish to apply on your own in the United States, please refer to the following links:

https://cova.mfa.gov.cn/qzCoCommonController.do?show&pageId=001&locale=en_US

We also have a NY area travel agent who can help you to obtain a Chinese visa with nominal fees. Please inquiry by email: info@bimfa.org

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Celebrating 22nd Year

北京国际音乐大师班艺术

2026 BEIJING INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL & ACADEMY

Ming Fong, *Founder & Executive Director*

Faculty/Artists*

PIANO

Bruce Brubaker *New England Conservatory of Music, Boston, USA*
Ming Fong *Aaron Copland School of Music, Queens College, NYC, USA*
Joan Forsyth *The Third Street Music Settlement, NYC, USA*
Gabriel Kwok *Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, HK, China*
Li Qifang *Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, China*
Alexandre Moutouzkine *Manhattan School of Music, NYC, USA*
Vladimir Ovchinnikov *Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory, Russia*
Benjamin Pasternack *Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA*
J.Y. Song *Mannes School of Music, NYC, USA*
Peter Takács *Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Ohio, USA*
Vladimir Valjarevic *Rutgers University, NJ & Mannes School of Music, NYC, USA*
Wang Chun *Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, China*
Eleanor Wong *Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, HK, China*
Yang Yunlin *Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Shanghai, China*
Zhang Xinning *Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, China*
Zhou Ting *Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Shanghai, China*
*Other Piano Artists/Faculty to be announced

PIANO (2026 Online)

Graham Scott *Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, England*
Jerome Lowenthal *The Juilliard School, NYC, USA*
Ursula Oppens *CUNY Graduate Center & Mannes School of Music, NYC, USA*
Matti Raekallio *The Sibelius Academy, Helsinki, Finland*

VIOLIN

Chloé Kiffer *Manhattan School of Music, NYC, USA*
Qing Li *Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University &*
Principal Second Violin, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, USA

He Shu-Cong *Hong Kong Chinese University & Yehudi Menuhin School Qingdao, China*

VIOLA

Su Zhen *Viola, Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, China*
Cai Lei *Yehudi Menuhin School Qingdao, Qingdao, China*

CELLO

Chu Yi-Bing *SuperCello Performing Arts Studio, Los Angeles, USA*
Guo Peiyao *Shanghai Conservatory of Music & Tianjin Juilliard School, China*
Mo Mo *Yehudi Menuhin School Qingdao, Qingdao, China*
*Other String Artists/Faculty to be announced

STRINGS (2026 Online)

Herbert Greenberg *Violin, Peabody Conservatory of Music*
& Former Concertmaster - Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, USA
Sheila Browne *Viola, Lynn Conservatory of Music, Boca Raton, FL*
Jean-Michel Fonteneau *San Francisco Conservatory of Music, CA, USA*

CLASSICAL GUITAR

Tali Roth *Head of Guitar Program, The Juilliard School - Pre-College &*
Head of Former Guitar Program at NYU, New York, USA
Xu Bao *Head of Guitar Program, Sichuan Conservatory of Music, Chengdu, China*
William Anderson *Sarah Lawrence College & Queens College, New York, USA*
Ekachai Jearakul *Founder & Executive Director of Fonzo Guitars, Bangkok, Thailand*
Kuang Junhong *Sichuan Conservatory of Music & Tianjin Juilliard School, China*
Liu Beiyan *Tianjin Juilliard School, Tianjin, China*
Liu Xianji *Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Shanghai, China*
Wang Yihang *Founder of "Yihang Classical Guitars" Studio, Beijing, China*
*Other Guitar Artists/Faculty to be announced

FLUTE

Judith Mendenhall *Mannes School of Music, NYC, USA*
Chen Zhaorong *China Conservatory of Music, Beijing, China*
Ye Yireng *Principal Flute, National Centre for Performing Arts Orchestra, Beijing, China*

CLARINET

He Yi *China Conservatory of Music, Beijing, China*
Keith Lipson *Beijing Haidian Daoxianghu School, Beijing, China*
Zhou Xiangyu *Tianjin Juilliard School, Tianjin, China*

**List of Artist-faculty and Young Artists is subject to change without notice. Please visit our website for the most updated list*

2026 Important Festival Dates

Application/Payment/Refund Schedules

January 31	Scholarship/early application deadline 1 ($75)
February 28	Application deadline 2 ($100)
March 31	Application deadline 3 ($150)
April 1-	*Late applications will be accepted with $200 fee until all spaces are filled
June 1	All remaining balance due; No refund of deposit after this date
July 1	Last day for cancellation with full refund of remaining program fees
July 20	Last day for 50% refund of the remaining paid program fees; cancellation after this date does NOT entitle to refund of any kind

Festival Calendar

August 7	Arrival & Hotel check-in; Festival Registration
August 8-16	Full BIMFA schedule in session ▪ Daily Master Class Series ▪ Daily Individual Lessons & Chamber coaching ▪ Artist-faculty Concert Series ▪ Piano Solo Competitions (Junior & Senior Divisions) ▪ Chamber-Ensemble Competition ▪ Student Performance/Showcase/Award Concerts
August 14-15	Young Artists Concerts (Solo & Ensemble)
August 16	Closing Ceremony; followed by a Banquet Lunch BIMFA Gala Finale Concert
August 17-19	**3-day Beijing Cultural Excursions**
August 20	Hotel check-out and departure for all

Sample Day's Schedule

Morning

8:00-9:00 AM	Breakfast
8:30 AM	Practice Rooms Open*
9:00-12:00 PM	Individual Lessons
10:00-12:00 PM	Master Classes/Lectures***

Afternoon

12:00-1:30 PM	Lunch
1:00-2:00 PM	Performance Showcase**; Noon Rest Period
2:00-5:00 PM	Individual Lesson/Chamber Music Coaching/Orchestra Rehearsal***

Evening

5:30-7:00 PM	Dinner
7:30 -9:30 PM	Festival Concert Series/Performances/Events/Activities

* Practice rooms are available daily for the duration of the festival

** Performance Showcases and student recitals take place several times during the festival at the discretion of the BIMFA committee and faculty; all festival participants are welcome and encouraged to perform

*** Individual lessons and chamber music coaching are scheduled throughout the day according to each teacher's timetable

*NOTE: Festival and daily schedules are subject to change without notice. Please contact for the most-updated festival information