

**The Youngest Pianist
ever signed to an
International Classical
Record Label (at age 9)**

Niu Niu





Biography

&

Concerts / Events Recap

Niu Niu is the stage name of Zhang Shengliang, who was born into a musical family in Xiamen in 1997. With signs of exceptional talent shown at the age of three, Niu Niu made his recital debut at six years old with a Mozart Sonata and a Chopin Étude. Niu Niu was the youngest student ever enrolled in the affiliated primary school of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music at the age of eight, and was admitted to New York's Juilliard School with a full scholarship in 2014 and has graduated in 2018.

Niu Niu signed to EMI Classics at the age of nine, making him the youngest pianist ever signed to an international classical label. Since then, he has released ten albums. Fate & Hope and Lifetime, the two globally released albums under Universal Music's Decca Classics Label, includes his own compositions "Hope" and "Miss".

Niu Niu's career highlights include the 2007 Pearl Awards at London's Royal Festival Hall, where he performed Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No.1 under his mentor Leslie Howard in the presence of the future King Charles III, then the Prince of Wales.

In 2009, he became the youngest pianist to give a solo recital at Tokyo's Suntory Hall and the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing. Niu Niu was also named the youngest laureate of the 2010 PRIX Montblanc in Berlin. In 2017, he was invited to perform for the presidents of China, Russia, India, Brazil and South Africa at the BRICS summit evening gala.

In August 2016, he completed a tour in 16 cities within 25 days throughout China. So far, he had done hundreds of concerts all over the world, including concerts with Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra, Beijing Philharmonic Orchestra, and Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra. Niu Niu has also worked with many renowned conductors including Maestro Jaap Van Zweden, Jacek Kasprzyk, Yutaka Sado, and Jiri Belohlavek.

In 2018-19, Niu Niu dubbed the piano performance of the character Wei Pang in NHK's animated version of Piano no Mori (Forest of Piano), which was broadcast by Netflix worldwide.

In April 2024, Niu Niu released *Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No. 1 and Symphony No. 6* globally, a live recording album with Maestro Jaap Van Zweden and the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.



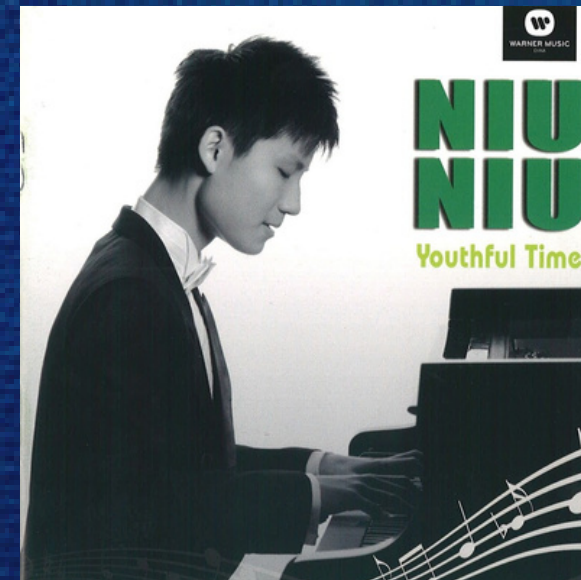
《Niu Niu Plays Mozart》
Year 2008



《Niu Niu Plays Chopin》
The Complete Études
Year 2010



《Niu Niu: Liszt Transcriptions》
Year 2012



《Niu Niu: Youthful Time》
Year 2013



《Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No. 2 &
Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini》
Year 2014



Year 2015
《Niu Niu: Portrait》



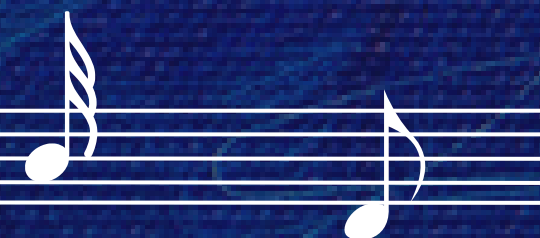
Year 2018
《LISZT. CHOPIN. SCHUBERT.
MENDELSSOHN》



Year 2021
《BEETHOVEN: FATE & HOPE》



Year 2023
《Lifetime》



Year 2024
《Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No. 1 and
Symphony No. 6》



Rossini: William Tell Overture (trans. Liszt)



Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 (trans. Liszt)



Schubert: Schwanengesang, D. 957
(feat. cellist Camille Thomas)



Løvland: Song from a Secret Garden (arr. Niu Niu)
(feat. flutist Cocomi)



The Record Breaker

Year 2005 (Age 8)
 The Youngest Student ever enrolled to the Shanghai Conservatory of Music (affiliated primary school)



Year 2008 (Age 11)
 The youngest pianist to held a solo recital at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) in Beijing



Year 2010 (Age 13)
 The youngest pianist to record the complete Chopin Étude, which turned into one of the best-selling album with a Gold Disc Award.



Year 2007 (Age 9)
 Signed with EMI Classics and became the youngest pianist ever signed to an international classical record label



Year 2009 (Age 12)
 The youngest pianist to held a solo recital at the Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Japan and sold-out the tickets within three days



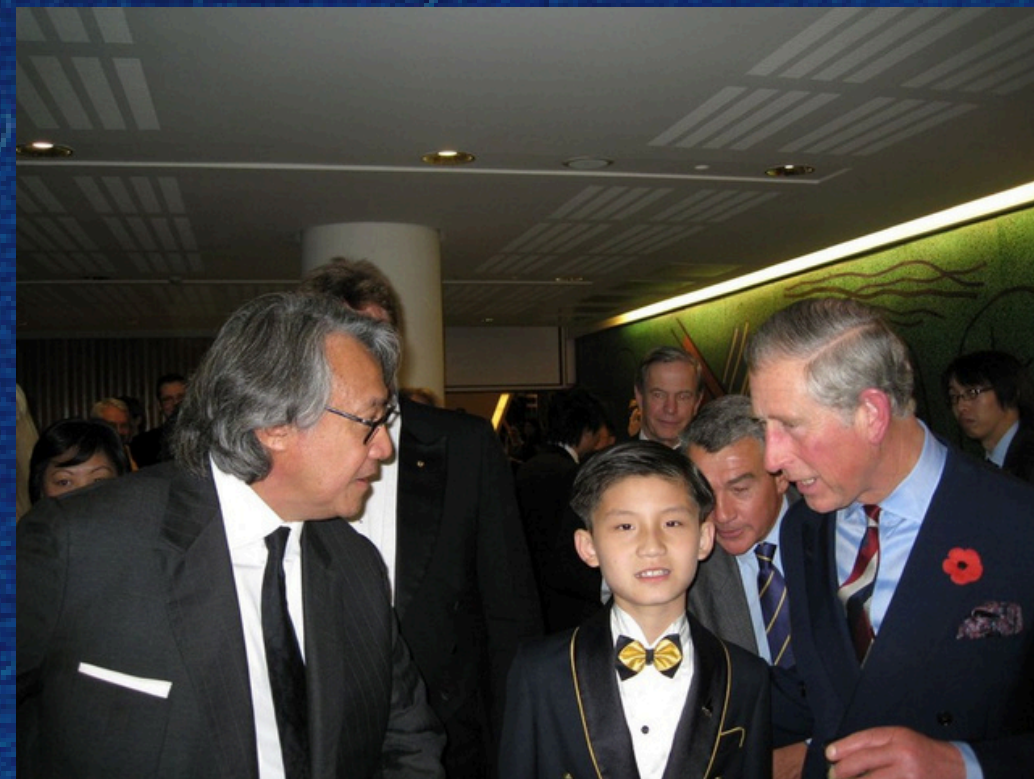
Year 2010 (Age 13)
 The youngest recipient of the annual PRIX Montblanc 2010, an award for young classical instrumentalists.

In 2009, Niu Niu was invited to perform at the prestigious Wigmore Hall in London. He performed both solo repertoire and collaborated with Leslie Howard and chamber ensemble on Shostakovich Piano Concerto No. 1.

Video footage: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfQKhOlbK7c&t=77s>



In 2007, Niu Niu was invited to perform at the **Pearl Awards Ceremony** held at **London's Royal Festival Hall**, where he played Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No.1 under his mentor Leslie Howard in the presence of the future **King Charles III**, then the **Prince of Wales**, who gave high compliments toward Niu Niu's performance in the post-concert reception.



Niu Niu has been generously supported by the chairman of the **First Initiative Foundation (FIF)**, Ms. Michelle Ong, since 2008. and have been invited to perform at FIF's events including the Sojourn Dinner in London, and "Stars in Harmony" Gala Dinner in Hong Kong.



Niu Niu has been one of the **Trailblazers** of FIF since 2019.

Official Website:
<https://www.fif.org.hk/members>

Niu Niu has given three concerts at the French May Arts Festival in Hong Kong in 2021, 2023, and 2024, exclusively sponsored by the **First Initiative Foundation (FIF)**.

主辦機構 Presented by 獨家贊助 Exclusive Sponsor

french mau 法國五月 ARTS FEST **fif** FIRST INITIATIVE Foundation 領賢

牛牛與貝樂安 - 希望與和諧 雙琴合奏
"Hope & Harmony"
by Niu Niu & Laurent Perrin

2021年5月27日 (四) 27 May 2021 (Thu) 8:00pm
 香港大會堂音樂廳 Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall



In 2021

30th FRENCH MAY ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMME 法國五月三十週年紀念節目 www.frenchmay.com

牛牛及提奧·夫先納黑
NIU NIU AND THÉO FOUCHENNERET
雙鋼琴的和諧 HARMONY OF TWO PIANOS

12.05.2023 8 PM

香港文化中心音樂廳
 CONCERT HALL,
 HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE

\$420 / \$320 / \$220 / \$150
 城市售票網 URBITX

主辦機構 Presented by 獨家贊助 Exclusive Sponsor

french mau 法國五月 **fif** FIRST INITIATIVE Foundation 領賢

In 2023

Beautiful Harmony

Piano & Flute Duo
 Niu Niu & Cocomi

牛牛與心美二重奏 琴笛和鳴

30-31.05.2024
 8 PM

香港演藝學院
 香港賽馬會演藝劇院
 Hong Kong Jockey Club Amphitheatre,
 HKAPA

\$480 / \$380 / \$280 / \$180

主辦機構 Presented by 獨家贊助 Exclusive Sponsor 協辦機構 Organized by

french mau 法國五月 **fif** FIRST INITIATIVE Foundation 領賢 The Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts

鋼琴贊助 Sponsor of Piano: **柏樂音樂 PARSONS MUSIC**

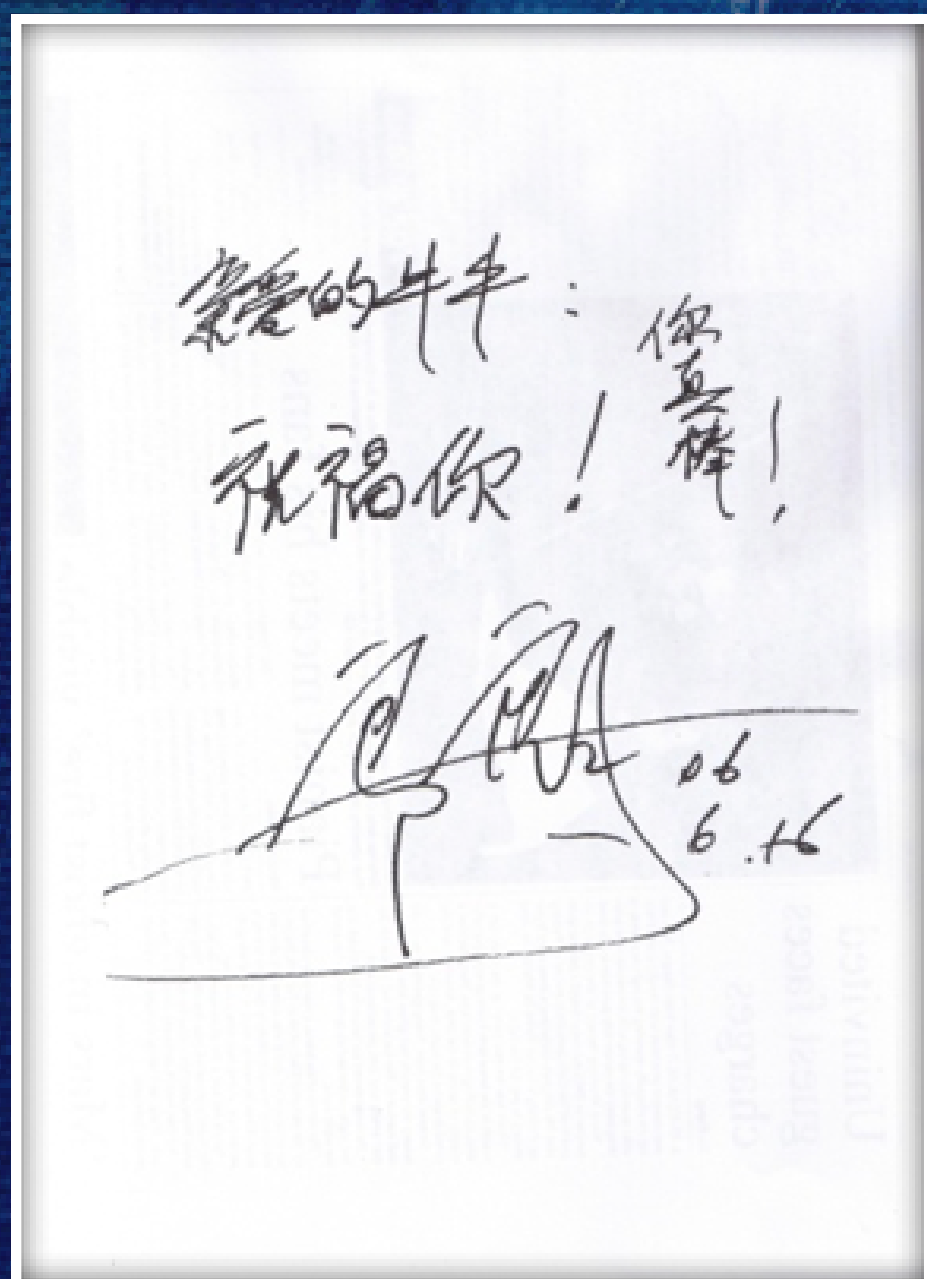
In 2024

Niu Niu was invited to give a **masterclass at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA)** in 2021, exclusively sponsored by the **First Initiative Foundation** and supported by HKAPA and the French May Arts Festival

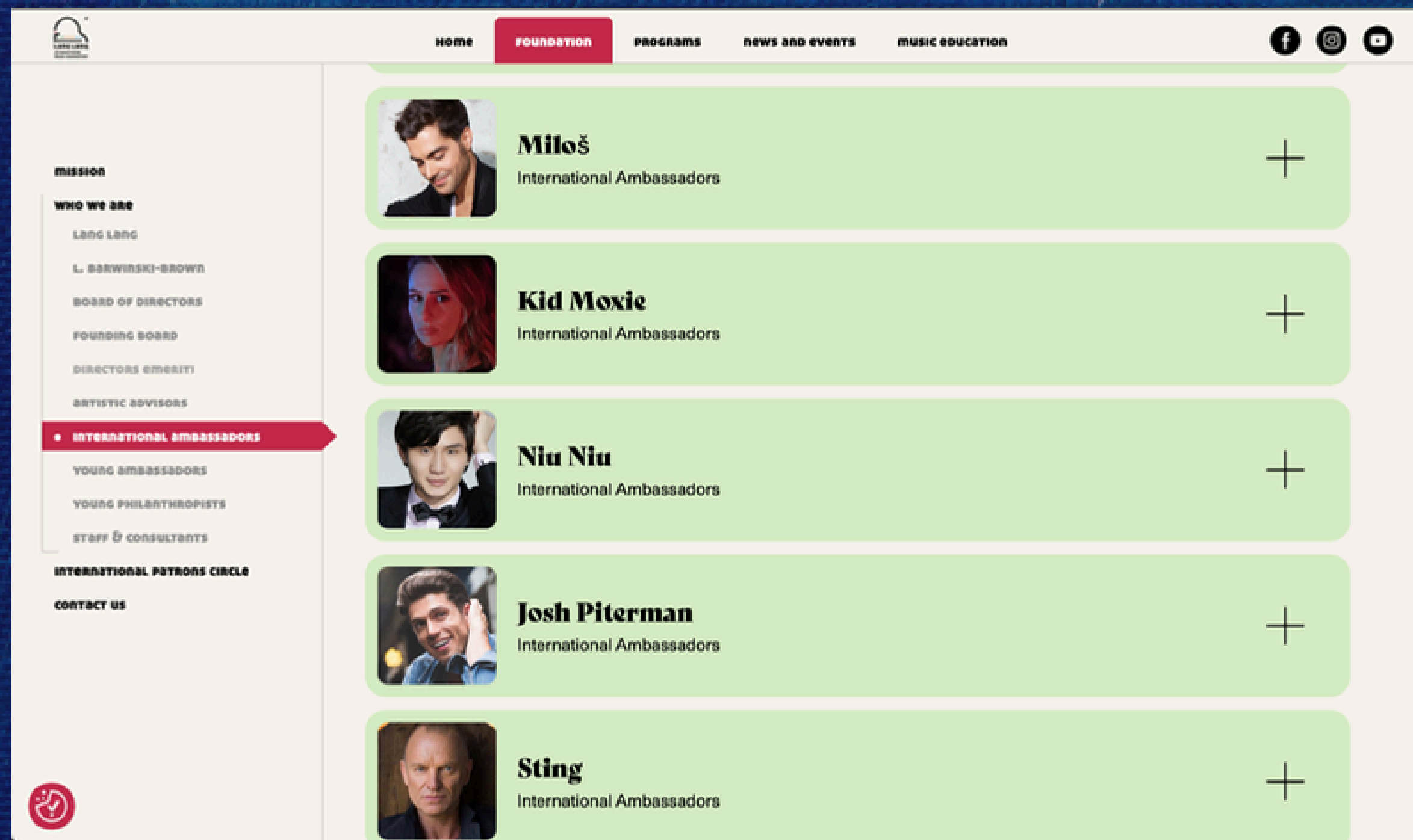
Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?si=SC77qs5NPj-86_TA&v=Vc4qB3rMShI&feature=youtu.be



Niu Niu performed four-hand with **Lang Lang** in Shanghai in 2006.
After the collaboration, Lang Lang wrote down:
“Dear Niu Niu, congratulations! You are truly amazing!”



In 2024, Niu Niu became one of the International Ambassadors of the Lang Lang International Music Foundation



In 2021, 2022, and 2025, Niu Niu collaborated with the renowned Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra for a total of six sold-out concerts.



In 2022 and 2024, Niu Niu was invited to perform at the prestigious Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Japan



The 27th China-Korea Amity Concert

August 22, 2019 at 20:00 in Kumho Art Hall Yonsei,
Seoul, Korea

- Information:
https://www.kumhoarthall.com:448/eng/designer/skin/01/detail?p_idx=21972&s_idx=11&vwY=2019&vwM=&se_idx=




Recital Concert in Belgrade (Serbia) Music Festival BEMUS in 2019



- Concert Report : <https://www.danas.rs/kultura/istocni-vetar-zapadni-vetar/>
- Event Info and Photos : <https://www.bemus.rs/en/archive/314-51-bemus-eng/2196-niu-niu-51-eng.html>

Performance at the Carnegie Hall in New York











China NOW
MUSIC FESTIVAL
纽约中国当代音乐节

CHINA AND AMERICA – UNITY IN MUSIC
**WELLINGTON KOO
THE DIPLOMAT –
A LIFE IN SONG**
September 30, 2019 • 7:00 PM

A multimedia portrait with video and music of the famed statesman's role in opening China to the U.S. and the world.

Stirley Young, US-China Cultural Institute, Producer
Sherwood Hu, Director

 <small>Fugen Wei Music Director/ Piano</small>	 <small>Luzyong Wang Narrator</small>	 <small>Ying Huang Soprano</small>	 <small>Shenyang Bass-Baritone</small>
 <small>Dian Zhu Violin</small>	 <small>Niu Niu Zhang Piano</small>	 <small>Jinghui Wu Flute</small>	 <small>Haibao Huang Saxophone</small>

Bard Conservatory String Quartet
Starry Arts Group Children's Chorus

ZANKEL HALL AT CARNEGIE HALL
Tickets: \$35 to \$75 available at carnegiehall.org, CarnegieCharge at 212.247.7800 or the Carnegie Hall box office at 57th Street & 7th Avenue
barduschinamusic.org/china-now-music-festival

Presented by Bard



- Concert Info : <http://www.usccii.org/recent--past-programs.html>
- Concert Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=semoLeb3Aqs> (Niu Niu's performance starts from 32:51').

Niu Niu gave a sold-out Recital Concert at the Fazioli Music Festival in Italy in 2024 as the spokesperson for Fazioli Piano in Greater China Area

Venerdì 2 febbraio 2024 | 19.30

NIU NIU

Pianoforte

Lifetime
a cura di Luca Cossettini

FEELINGS	PASSAGES
PLEASURE Overture da Guglielmo Tell, S. 552: Finale Gioachino Rossini (trascr. Franz Liszt)	PATHOS Ständchen, da 'Schwanengesang' S. 560 n. 7 Franz Liszt/Franz Schubert
ANGER Rondo a capriccio: La collera per il soldo perduto, op. 129 Ludwig van Beethoven	DELIGHT Le Piccadilly Erik Satie
SORROW Impromptu n. 2: Miss Niu Niu Zhang Shengliang	SEPARATION Melodia da Orfeo ed Euridice, Wq. 30 Christoph Willibald Gluck (trascr. Giovanni Sgambati)
JOY Etude n. 4 "Embraceable You" Earl Wild (da George Gershwin)	UNION "Nessun Dorma" da Turandot Giacomo Puccini (trascr. Philip Sharp)
LOVE Butterfly Lovers Concerto (estratto) Chen Gang/He Zhanhao (trascr. Chen Gang/Shi Wen)	BIRTH Berceuse in re bemolle maggiore, op. 57 Frédéric Chopin
HATE Etude, op. 8 n. 12 Aleksandr Scriabin	AGING Preludio in si minore Aleksandr Siloti/Johann Sebastian Bach
ROMANCE Rapsodia su un tema di Paganini, op. 43 (Var. 18) Sergei Rachmaninov (arr. Niu Niu)	SICKNESS Energy Flow Ryuichi Sakamoto
ENMITY Suggestion Diabolique, Op. 4 n. 4 Sergei Prokofiev	DEATH Song from a Secret Garden Rolf Løvland (arr. Niu Niu)
PEACE Amazing Grace John Newton (arr. Niu Niu)	FATE AND HOPE * Allegro con brio dalla Sinfonia n. 5 in do minore, op. 67 Ludwig van Beethoven (trascr. Franz Liszt S. 464/5)

Il programma è riportato ricalcando le tracce del CD di Niu Niu "Lifetime" (Decca, 2023)
* unica traccia tratta dal CD di Niu Niu "Fate and Hope" (Decca, 2021)

Niu Niu possiede doti tecniche altissime, combinate con la sensibilità e un'enorme vitalità.

Paul Badura-Skoda

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Concert Footage:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfGphsHKbxs&t=46s>

...Niu Niu produces some remarkable playing... (Gramophone)

...His equable, rounded tone is underpinned by mature technique... (BBC Music Magazine)

"Niu Niu is by some margin the most accomplished and most completely realized young pianist I have ever heard." (Boston Music Intelligencer)

"Niu Niu displays impeccable control over the keyboard from the outset, with the capacity to create a wide palette of tonal colours." (Interlude HK)

"...many digital difficulties seemed like putty in his hands as he crafted a coherent and convincing performance which brought out loud and prolonged applause. " The Straits Times

"Niu Niu have reached a very high degree of technical perfection, combined with sensitivity and an enormous vitality." (Paul Badura-Skoda, the legendary Austrian pianist)

Niu Niu was invited to perform at the “**Hello 2023 Hong Kong New Year Countdown Celebration**” and performed a **medley of 9 most famous music pieces arranged by himself**

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGAgquwPnUzI>



In the same year, he was invited by the Hong Kong Tourism Board to serve as one of the Tourist Ambassadors for the "Hello Hong Kong" campaign

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1tG5i6emEM>

In March 2024, Niu Niu was invited by the Chinese University of Hong Kong (Chung Chi College) to give a lecture at their weekly assembly. It was one of the best-attended assemblies of that school year with over a thousand students in the audience.



Niu Niu is devoted in communicating with the young students through music. He shares his artistic insights in ways that are accessible for students with different major and backgrounds.



Music Sharing Event at Hong Kong Shopping Mall



Music Sharing Event in High Schools in China



Music Sharing Events in different kind of schools in Hong Kong

Website: <https://www.niuniumusic.com>

Youtube - <https://www.youtube.com/@niuniumusic>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/niuniupiano>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/niuniumusic/>



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