

<http://wrti.org/post/concert-pianist-shares-lessons-learned-young-musicians-around-world>



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## A Concert Pianist Shares Lessons Learned with Young Musicians from Around the World



*Ching-Yun Hu, PYPA founder, and Chunyi Wang, PYPA festival student.*

By Susan Lewis

What are all the things you need to know if your goal is to be a concert pianist? More than 20 musicians ages 12 to 27 will travel to Philadelphia in early August from Asia, South America, Canada, and parts of the United States to find out. They'll participate in a week-long intensive program, the **Philadelphia Young Pianists' Academy (PYPA)**, founded and directed by concert pianist Ching-Yun Hu in 2013, and held at the Curtis Institute of Music.

As WRTI's Susan Lewis reports, the program offers master classes and performance opportunities, encourages friendships, and provides a sense of what life is like as a professional musician.

Radio script:

[Music: Rachmaninoff, Ching-Yun Hu]

**Susan Lewis:** Ching-Yun Hu won many competitions in her quest to become a concert pianist. She founded PYPA to pass on to young pianists some of the lessons *she* learned in her journey.

**Ching-Yun Hu:** Sometimes I had to make decisions myself: which teacher to go to; which school to go to; how to have confidence. I want to show them, with this festival, they have support. There are teachers who have gone through this and you can come talk to us.

**SL:** Festival students also learn from and support their peers.

[Music: Chopin Variations, Chunyi Wang]

**Chunyi Wang:** My name's Chunyi Wang from China. I am 12 years old. And it's my pleasure to be here.

**SL:** Chunyi Wang is in the younger of two groups of students, who range from 12 to 27. Mingling with peers is part of the plan.

**CYH:** I think it's so important to be around pianists of similar aspirations and goals, of same dreams. It's a kind of lifestyle, and a work ethic that is very different from a young person that does not play piano to such an extent. It's wonderful for them to be together and to be friends.

**SL:** Friends who will compete against one another at the end of the week.

**CYH:** You're competing against each other, but at the same time, you're really competing against yourself.

**SL:** PYPA is at the Curtis Institute of Music from August 8th through the 15th, with master classes, evening concerts with professional musicians, and a competition at the end.

**Ching-Yun Hu, Mira Yevtich, and Ursula Oppens are among the artists performing at PYPA's evening concerts at Curtis.**