

Wanshu Qiu - viola

Deeply committed to bringing classical music to ever wider audiences, Wanshu enjoys an active career as both a soloist and chamber musician, performing regularly with distinguished ensembles and at leading international festivals.

As a soloist, she has appeared at major festivals including Encuentro de Música Santander, IMS Prussia Cove Open Chamber Music, the Lucerne Festival, the Bowdoin International Music Festival, and, most recently, the Edinburgh International Festival, where she was selected as a Rising Star.

She has collaborated with internationally renowned ensembles including the Nash Ensemble, Aurora Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, Manchester Collective, the Hallé Orchestra, and the BBC Philharmonic. She has also served as principal viola in productions conducted by distinguished conductors such as Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Mark Elder, and Semyon Bychkov.

Chamber music lies at the heart of Wanshu's artistic activity. As a member of the Kyan Quartet, she has received prestigious awards and fellowships, including the Royal Over-Seas League Award, the Wigmore Hall Fellowship, and support from the City Music Foundation. She has also performed alongside artists such as James Ehnes, Nicola Benedetti, and Zakhar Bron.

Alongside her traditional concert career, Wanshu has a strong interest in interdisciplinary projects spanning theatre, jazz, and multimedia productions, taking



part in festivals including the Manchester International Festival and the Melbourne Arts Festival.

Born in Chengdu, China, Wanshu began studying the viola at the age of fifteen. She studied at the Royal Northern College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music on a full scholarship, where she was awarded the Barbirolli Evelyn Rothwell Prize in recognition of her outstanding academic achievements. During her studies, she was supported by the British Council and the Art Association of China.

She is currently continuing her studies at the Mozarteum University Salzburg together with the Kyan Quartet.

Wanshu performs on a viola that she built herself in London in 2024.