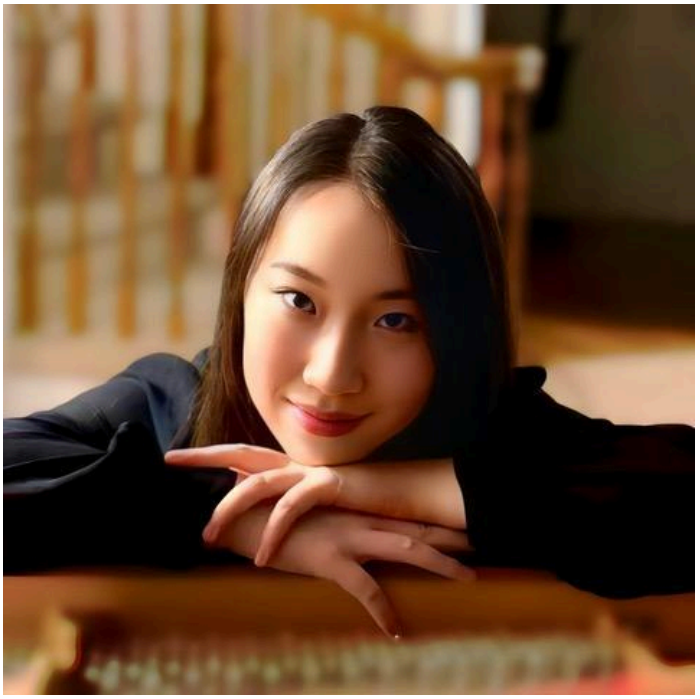
Nicole Wu

Dasha Shenkman Award 2026 – 2027



Programme: MPerf, Piano, Guildhall School of Music and Drama

Biography (IN ENGLISH): First Prize winner of the 2026 Guildhall Romantic Piano Prize and Second Prize at the 2026 Sheepdrove Piano Competition, Canadian pianist Nicole Wu is recognised for her musical maturity, expressive depth, and stylistic versatility. Equally at home as a soloist and chamber musician, she has appeared across Europe and North America, earning recognition in numerous national and international competitions. Her distinctions include prizes at the Birmingham International Piano Competition, Eastbourne Young Soloist Competition, Prix d'Europe, OSM Competition, and the Canadian Music Competition.

Nicole has performed in recitals at distinguished venues including Cliburn Hall in Texas, Milton Court Concert Hall in London, and the Musikverein in Vienna. Now based in London, she has presented solo recitals at St Stephen Walbrook and St James's Church, with programmes spanning the Classical and Romantic repertoire alongside major 20th Century works.

An active participant in leading international festivals and academies, Nicole works with renowned performers and teachers and is broadening her artistic perspectives. Recent engagements include the Domaine Forget Academy, Orford Music Academy, International Holland Music Sessions (2023), PianoTexas Young Artist Program (2024), International Summer Academy (ISA) Vienna, and Gijón International Piano Festival (2026).

Nicole is studying with Professor Ronan O'Hora and Carole Presland at the Guildhall. Her studies are generously supported by the Fishmongers' Company and Steinway & Sons. She completed a Bachelor of Music at the Schulich School of Music, McGill University, under the guidance of Dr. Ilya Poletaev. She has also received support from the Hnatyshyn Foundation and Jeunesses Musicales Canada.

Her artistic development has been enriched through masterclasses with distinguished musicians including Robert Levin, Kevin Kenner, Christopher Elton, Jan Jiráček von Arnim, Boris Berman, Norma Fisher, and Arie Vardi.

Nicole is committed to championing Canadian music on the international stage. She seeks opportunities to introduce audiences to works of Canadian composers and draws on her experiences in Europe to inform her teaching. Working with students in the United Kingdom, she has gained valuable insight into a range of pedagogical approaches which she hopes to share with the next generation of Canadian pianists. By connecting international perspectives with her Canadian roots, she aims to contribute meaningfully to Canada's musical life as both a performer and educator.