

Vivian Choi Biography



Since her debut performance in the Mostly Mozart Festival at the Sydney Opera House in 1992, Vivian Choi has performed widely in the US, Europe, Russia and in Australia. The recipient of many prestigious awards and prizes in Australia, Vivian was awarded the New South Wales Premier's Award for *For Excellence in Music* and the Australian Guild of Music and Speech Award *For Outstanding Achievement*.

Vivian received her first international recognition when she won second prize at the 9th Citta di Marsala International Piano Competition in Italy in 1993. Since then, she has won 1st prize in the 3rd Maria Yudina International Piano Competition in Russia (2001), 1st prize in the Peter De Grote International Music Competition in The Netherlands (2002), and 1st prize in the Dobrich-Albena International Music Competition in Bulgaria (2008).

Vivian's debut performance with orchestra in 1992 when she won the New South Wales Secondary Schools Concerto Competition. Since then, she has appeared as soloist under the baton of prominent Australian and international conductors. As a recitalist, Vivian has performed in numerous festivals and concerts including her debut recital at the Sydney Opera House in 1997 which was broadcast nationally on 2MBS-FM. Highlights include a series of 5 all-Chopin recitals in *ChopinFest' Australia*, International Celebration of Music at the Sydney Town Hall, *Piano Future* Festival at the Jordan Hall, Imago Sloveniae Festival in Slovenia and Croatia, *Hopes, Talents and Masters* Festival in Bulgaria and Portland International Festival.

Born in Seoul, Korea, Vivian received her earliest musical education at the Australian International Conservatorium of Music with Professor Kyunghye Lee and Mira Jevtich-Ruben, during which time Vivian also studied at the Australia National Academy of Music. Vivian initially pursued a Bachelor of Arts/Law degree at the University of Sydney, before leaving Australia to continue her musical training at the St Petersburg State Conservatory in Russia with Alexander Sandler, graduating summa cum laude. She received her Masters of Music Degree with Academic Honors and Graduate Diploma in Piano Performance at the New England Conservatory under the tutelage of Wha Kyung Byun. Vivian's studies were generously assisted by the Australian Government through the Australian Council, its arts funding and advisory body. Currently, she is a candidate for Artist Diploma at Carnegie Mellon University, studying with Sergey Schepkin.

Earlier this year, Vivian recorded her debut album in Russia with works by Prokofiev, Rachmaninoff and Godowsky on the St Petersburg Musical Archives Northern Flowers label, which is expected to be released in Autumn 2009.

Vivian will be joining the Piano Faculty at Long Island Conservatory in New York from fall 2010.