# KünstlerSekretariat am Gasteig oHG

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## Biography - Lang Lang, Piano

Lang Lang is a leading figure in classical music today. As a pianist, educator, and philanthropist, he has become one of the world's most influential and dedicated ambassadors for the arts in the 21st century. Equally at home performing for billions at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Opening Ceremony, the 2024 reopening of Notre-Dame de Paris, and the 2026 Milan Olympic Opening Ceremony, or for just a few hundred children in public schools, he is a master communicator through music.

Heralded by the New York Times as "the hottest artist on the classical music planet," Lang Lang plays sold-out concerts all over the world. He has formed ongoing collaborations with conductors including Sir Simon Rattle, Gustavo Dudamel, Daniel Barenboim, and Christoph Eschenbach, and performs with all the world's top orchestras. Lang Lang is known for thinking outside the box and frequently steps into different musical worlds. Millions of viewers watched his performances at the GRAMMY Awards with Metallica, Pharrell Williams, and jazz legend Herbie Hancock. He has also worked with global pop icons such as Ed Sheeran, John Legend, Rose from BLACKPINK, J Balvin, and Jay Chou bringing classical music to new and diverse audiences.

Lang Lang's passion for innovation has led him to exciting collaborations beyond classical music. A collaboration between François-Paul Journe and Lang Lang began in 2026, joining the pianist and the Geneva watchmaker in a shared commitment to craftsmanship and to championing young artists. That same year he began a partnership with Allianz across its markets in Asia, which includes masterclasses for the next generation of pianists.

For about a decade, Lang Lang has contributed to musical education worldwide. In 2008, he founded the Lang Lang International Music Foundation, aimed at cultivating tomorrow's top pianists, championing music education at the forefront of technology, and building a young audience through live music experiences. In 2013, Lang Lang was designated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as a Messenger of Peace, focusing on global education.

Lang Lang's influence extends into the luxury world, where he is a Global Ambassador for Dior and Hennessy, and has partnered with Alicia Keys for a high-profile campaign with Hennessy. His unique blend of artistry and creativity also led him to design his limited-edition Steinway Black Diamond piano, debut the Steinway Spirio Cast to the world, and design the interior of a Bugatti car.

Lang Lang started playing the piano at age three and gave his first public recital before the age of five. At age nine, he entered Beijing's Central Music Conservatory and won First Prize at the International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians at 13. He subsequently went to Philadelphia to study with legendary pianist Gary Graffman at the Curtis Institute of Music. He was seventeen when his big break came, substituting for André Watts at the Gala of the Century, playing Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto with the Chicago Symphony


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Orchestra under the baton of Christoph Eschenbach: he became an overnight sensation, and the invitations started to pour in. Lang Lang's boundless drive to attract new audiences to classical music has brought him tremendous recognition: he was presented with the 2010 Crystal Award in Davos and was picked as one of the 250 Young Global Leaders by the World Economic Forum. He is also the recipient of honorary doctorates from the Royal College of Music, the Manhattan School of Music, and New York University. Lang Lang has received many of the highest civilian honors awarded by countries around the world, including the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China, the Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, and France's Légion d'honneur. In 2016, Lang Lang was invited to the Vatican to perform for Pope Francis. He has also performed for numerous other international dignitaries, including four U.S. presidents and monarchs from many nations.

For further information visit www.langlangofficial.com and www.langlangfoundation.org.


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