

Dr. Mihyang Joo – Pianist, Educator, Collaborative Artist



Dr. Mihyang Joo is a distinguished pianist and educator based in Northern Virginia, known for her expressive performances, dedication to teaching, and deep commitment to community music outreach. She earned her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees as a scholarship student at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, South Korea.

She then pursued further graduate studies in the United States, receiving a second Master of Music from the Manhattan School of Music in New York and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from

Rutgers University’s Mason Gross School of the Arts, where she studied on full scholarship. Her principal teachers include internationally acclaimed pianists Solomon Mikowsky, Lazar Berman, Susan Starr, Min Kwon, Tong-il Han, and Yung Lim Ham.

Dr. Joo’s performance career has taken her to prestigious venues across North America, Europe, and Asia. She made her Carnegie Hall solo debut in 2007 as a winner of the Artists International Auditions and has since appeared at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, the Strathmore in Maryland, Nicholas Music Center in New Jersey, Steinway

Hall and Donnell Auditorium in New York, and the Hylton Performing Arts Center in Virginia. She has also performed in Austria with the Vienna Residence Orchestra and at the Marmorsaal and Altenburger Solistengala as part of the AMA Festival. She was featured as a soloist with the Rutgers Symphony Orchestra, performing Schumann’s Piano Concerto in A Minor.

Her numerous competition honors include winning the Rutgers Concerto Competition and twice winning the Rutgers Chamber Music Competition. She also earned second prize in the Bradshaw & Buono International Piano Competition in New York, was a prize winner in the Bergen Philharmonic Competition and the Lillian Fuchs Memorial Chamber Music Competition and was a finalist in both the Hugo Kauder International Piano Competition (Connecticut) and the Wiener Pianisten-Wettbewerb PanMusica Austria (Vienna).

Since relocating her private studio in Centreville, Virginia in 2011—and expanding to a second location in Fairfax in 2023, — Dr. Joo has become one of the region’s most sought-after piano teachers. Her students have consistently won top prizes in major competitions including FMMC, Knabe, Bland Music Competition, Richmond Symphony League, AAMS International Music Competition, Korean Honor Society Competition, Opus State

Competition, and NVMTA events. Her students have performed in venues across Virginia, Washington DC, Maryland, New York, Richmond, and even internationally in South Korea. In 2023, she was recognized with the Virginia Steinway Top Teacher Award, a testament to her excellence in music education.

In addition to her private teaching, Dr. Joo is highly respected as a collaborative pianist. She works closely with leading musicians and teachers in the Washington DC area, including violinists Olga Khroulevitch and Chaerim Kim Smith, and cellists James Lee and Danielle Cho.

Since 2017, Dr. Joo has served as Chair of the NVMTA Robert Spencer Piano Concerto Competition and has held leadership roles with the YMIC National Gospel Music Competition and YMIC Nursing Home Music Program. In 2025, she is launching *Music For All*, a nonprofit student accompanist program that will train advanced young pianists to accompany underprivileged string players, providing musical access and support to talented students facing financial barriers. Through this initiative, she also organizes monthly charity performances at local nursing homes and community centers.

She is affiliated with several professional organizations, including the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association (NVMTA), Maryland State Music Teachers Association (MSMTA), Washington Music Teachers Association (WMTA), Fairfax-Loudoun Music Fellowship (FLMF).

Dr. Joo continues to inspire students of all ages through individualized instruction that integrates performance, theory, and music history. Her studio hosts annual recital, monthly studio class in senior home or Fairfax Studio, monthly technique exams. Dr. Joo Piano studio invited guest artists and holding masterclasses featuring guest artists from New York, New Jersey, East Carolina University, Peabody Institute, and the DC area. In 2024, she opened a private recording studio at her Fairfax location, offering free recordings for her students preparing for auditions and competitions. Her duet recording of Rachmaninoff's Vocalise was released in South Korea on the Le Classic label.

Through her tireless teaching, leadership, and performance, Dr. Mihyang Joo has established herself as a musical force dedicated to artistry, education, and community Impact.

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Non-profit Student Pianists Organization-Music For All