

Chris Yonas

CLASSICAL PIANIST & COMPOSER

Born in 1993 in Athens, Chris Yonas is a Greek-Australian classical pianist and composer.

He is a graduate of the *Hellenic-American Educational Foundation* with an *International Baccalaureate Diploma*. He holds a *Soloist Diploma* in Piano (First Prize & Distinction) from the class of Betty Gaitanou-Barzouka, professor at the *Music Horizons Conservatory*.

He is also a graduate of the *American College of Greece – Deree (ACG)* with degrees in *Bachelor of Arts (Honors)* and *BMus (Hons) in Music Performance*. Part of his undergraduate studies were completed at the *University of Melbourne* in Australia, studying piano with the renowned Australian pianist Sir Stephen McIntyre. During his studies at the ACG, he studied piano with the internationally acclaimed concert pianist, Dimitri Toufexis, and was the recipient of prestigious music and academic scholarships, such as the *Frances L. Rich Music Scholarship* and the *International Honors Scholarship*, respectively. Additionally, as a distinguished member of the *International Honors Program*, he completed a further portion of his undergraduate studies at *Stanford University* in California, studying Philosophy and Mathematics.

Upon completing his studies at ACG, he graduated *summa cum laude* and was honored with the *Deree Hood Award*, the institution's highest honorary award. Furthermore, for his academic and artistic activities, as well as his interdisciplinary research, he was also awarded the *Outstanding Graduate Award (Music)*, *Artistic Achievement Award*, and *International Honors Award*, respectively.

As a soloist, he has received numerous awards and distinctions. In 2025, in recognition of his distinguished artistic activity, he was awarded the prestigious "*Eleni Tim. Mykoniou*" *Pianistic Prize* by the *Academy of Athens*.

Earlier Distinctions include first prizes in the 3rd *Panhellenic UNESCO Competition* and the 30th *X.O.N. Competition*, as well as the second prize in the 6th *Panhellenic Competition* of the *Municipal Conservatory of Larissa* and the third prize in the 1st *National Dionysia Trust Piano Competition*. He has participated in festivals including the *Piandemonium Piano Festival* and the *Athens Piano City Festival*. He has appeared at venues in Greece, such as the *Athens Concert Hall*, the *Alternative Stage of the Greek National Opera*, the *Michalis Kakogiannis Foundation*, and the *Cultural Foundation of Tinos*. Furthermore, he has also given performances at the *Mozarteum University* in Salzburg, Austria, the *Victoria College of Arts* and the *Melbourne Conservatorium of Music* in Melbourne, as well as on the island of Gotland in Sweden.

He has actively participated in various piano masterclasses in Greece and abroad with eminent pianists including Olga Kern, Andrzej Jasiski, Leonel Morales, Stephen McIntyre, Max Cooke, Dimitri Toufexis, Konstantinos Papadakis, and Daniel Blumenthal.

In the field of composition, he has studied with the acclaimed pianist and composer Sami-Vasileios Amiris, with whom he completed his *Honors Thesis* on algorithmic composition techniques using microtonal systems. He is a graduate of the *Contemporary Music Performance and Composition Workshop (CMPCW)* now known as *Synthesis Music Lab*, having completed a three year cycle of studies in tonal music theory and the history of contemporary compositional thought studying under Dr. Alexandros Kalogeras (*Ph.D. Harvard University*), professor at *Berklee College of Music* in Boston. Furthermore, as a member since 2016, he regularly participates in CMPCW organized events in Athens as well as in the *International Musical Meetings Festival* in Naxos and the *Musa Hellenica Festival* in Chios.

His compositional work includes pieces for piano, solo instruments, musical ensembles, as well as electronic and algorithmic music. Finally, since 2024, he is a co-founding member *YRIART Music Network*, a non-profit organization based in Naxos, Greece that focuses on improving music education and supporting emerging contemporary musicians and composers.