25–26 Apr, 2–3 May 2024

From 25 April to 3 May 2024, the Pianissimo series of concerts will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

GES-2: Music

Pianissimo

Over four unforgettable evenings in April and May 2024, the Copacabana Palace Theatre in Rio de Janeiro, one of the most glamorous stages in South America, will host a series of piano concerts by some of the world's most promising young musicians in partnership with GES-2 House of Culture.

These unmissable performances are part of the Pianissimo project, a series of piano concerts and music festivals that take place several times yearly at unusual venues worldwide. The idea behind the Pianissimo festival, launched in 2017 in Saint Petersburg, is to introduce the younger generation of musicians to listeners in spaces new for academic music.

Past Pianissimo concerts have seen young virtuosos and laureates of prestigious competitions perform on the world's top stages, from Milan's Teatro alla Scala to Carnegie Hall in New York. This year's programme will see remarkable musicians play on a Yamaha concert grand piano.

Jan Nikovich is a Croatian concert pianist and a winner of many prestigious competitions. He is currently studying at multiple locations with renowned professors Ruben Dalibaltayan and Natalia Trull. He is a multiple winner of national and international piano competitions.

Jan often performs all over Europe both in recitals and with renowned orchestras; most recently with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic under Maestro Domingo Hindoyan. He performed next to Lang Lang in Barcelona and at the Allianz Arena in Munich in front of 70,000 people.

Born in Istanbul, Can Sarac is an emerging pianist, a student of Prof. Michael Schäfer at the University of Music and Theatre in Munich and the winner of multiple prizes at international competitions. Only 16, he performed at Carnegie Hall, played Beethoven's concerto at Mariinsky Theater with the Mariinsky Orchestra, and in 2023 became the youngest winner of Piano Academy Eppan's prestigious Michelangeli Prize in Italy.

The italian pianist Massimiliano Grotto has graduated in the class of the renowned Italian pianist Massimiliano Ferrati and he studied in Germany with Professor Arnulf von Arnim. Grotto has won a number of international competitions and awards, notably the Crescendo in New York and the Euregio Piano Award in Germany.

Born in Siberia, Dmitry Shishkin is a graduate of the Gnessin Moscow School of Music for gifted children, and has studied in Italy and Germany. Shishkin won the Geneva International Music Competition and has performed with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande. Critics celebrate this young pianist's creative and individual approach to music and his marriage of academic excellence with playfulness and joie-de-vivre. As part of the Pianissimo programme, Shishkin will play compositions by Chopin, Debussy, and Bach, among other composers.

Pianissimo's concerts take place in remarkable, sometimes unusual locations in previous years, spectators have enjoyed Beethoven and Rachmaninov's masterpieces at the Italian Skylight Hall at the Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg, in a 150-year old ballroom at the heart of the Swiss Alps, at a magnificent eighteenth-century mansion in the old town of Geneva, and at GES-2, the former power station in downtown Moscow reconstructed by the Italian architect Renzo Piano. fig. 4

Pianissimo concerts will take place in Rio de Janeiro on April 25 and 26 at 20:00 and on May 2 and 3 at 20:00.

Avenida Atlântica 1702, Rio de Janeiro, CEP 22021 001, Brazil

Tickets are available online at <u>pianissimolive.com</u> and the GES-2 House of Culture website, <u>ges-2.org</u>

Press kit

For detailed information please contact irina.popovich@v-a-c.org

(11) 3801.1277
André Vieira andre@linhascomunicacao.
com.br
(11) 9 8112.9399
Eric Finger
eric@linhascomunicacao.
com.br
(12) 9 9675.334



COPACABANA PALACE

A BELMOND HOTEL

25–26 Apr, 2–3 May 2024

Pianissimo's 2024 location is no less special—opened in 1949, the Copacabana Palace Theatre was once the epicentre of Rio's cultural life, hosting some of Brazil's top productions. In 1994, the Palace Theatre closed for reconstruction. In 2023, it reopened with a lineup of grand-scale theatrical and musical performances. Over 600 craftsmen worked on the renovations led by the prominent Brazilian architect Ivan Rezende. The theatre is part of the legendary Copacabana Palace, one of Rio's oldest luxury hotels operated by Belmond.

During the performances, pianists will play a Yamaha concert grand piano.

About Belmond

GES-2: Music

Pianissimo

Since the acquisition of the iconic Hotel Cipriani in Venice in 1976, Belmond has continued to perpetuate the legendary art of travel, taking discerning global travellers on breathtaking journeys.

Its portfolio extends across 24 countries with 45 remarkable properties that include the illustrious Venice Simplon–Orient–Express train, remote beach retreats like Cap Juluca in Anguilla, Italian hideaways such as Splendido in Portofino, or unrivalled gateways to world natural wonders such as Hotel das Cataratas inside Brazil's Iguassu National Park. From trains to river barges, safari lodges to hotels, each unique property offers an incomparable experience with its own story to tell. The essence of the Belmond brand is built upon its heritage, craftsmanship and genuine, authentic service. Belmond sees its role as custodians of timeless heritage, dedicated to preserving its assets through sensitive ongoing restoration plans. Belmond is part of the world's leading luxury group LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton. For more information, please visit www.belmond.com.

About Yamaha Corporation

Since its founding in 1887, the Yamaha Corporation Group has developed its business activities focusing on musical instruments, audio products, Yamaha music schools, and other products and services related to sound and music. With our unique expertise and sensibilities, gained from our devotion to sound and music, Yamaha is committed to creating excitement and cultural inspiration together with people around the world.

For more information, please visit www.yamaha.com.

About GES-2 House of Culture

GES-2 House of Culture is an urban space that provides all the conditions for the development of the contemporary culture and professional artistic community. GES-2 brings together exhibition halls, a library, a cinema and concert hall, workshops, studios, and artist residencies, shops, a restaurant and cafes, a playground, and classrooms for public and educational events. The aim of the House of Culture is to introduce contemporary culture to a wider audience and encourage visitors to take an active part in its formation. For more information, please visit ges-2.org.

GES-2 is V–A–C Foundation's main venue. The Foundation works with Russian artists to expand the cultural space by organising exhibitions, publishing books, and holding educational events.

fig. 4

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