

A portrait of violinist Kevin Zhu. He is standing on a city street, looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a dark blue button-down shirt over a white t-shirt. A violin case is slung over his shoulder. In the background, a yellow taxi is blurred, suggesting motion. The overall tone is artistic and professional.

SHELDON
ARTISTS

Kevin Zhu

VIOLIN

*"Absolute virtuosity, almost blinding
in its incredible purity."*

L'APE MUSICALE

PHOTO: KYLE FLUBACKER

FIRST PRIZE	FIRST PRIZE	RECIPIENT	STUDIED WITH	PERFORMS ON
Yehudi Menuhin Competition 2012 · age 11	Paganini Competition, Genoa 2018 · age 17	Avery Fisher Grant 2021	Itzhak Perlman & Li Lin The Juilliard School	c. 1700 “ex-Petri” Stradivari Ryuji Ueno Foundation

BIOGRAPHY

A rare synthesis of spontaneity, discipline, and expressive depth

American violinist **Kevin Zhu** has emerged as one of the most compelling artists of his generation. A musician of brilliant technical command and uncommon narrative instinct, Zhu brings to the stage a rare synthesis of spontaneity, discipline, and expressive depth. His playing has been praised for its “infinite delicacy” and “wild intensity” by RTBF Belgium, while *L’ape musicale* noted his “absolute virtuosity, almost blinding in its incredible purity.” Beyond the brilliance, critics have recognized a depth of soul and character that distinguishes his interpretations.

The **2026/27 season** marks a significant expansion of Zhu’s international profile, with major concerto appearances in North America, Europe, and Asia. Highlights include his debut with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in Shostakovich’s Violin Concerto No. 1, his Hong Kong Philharmonic debut in Brahms’ Violin Concerto, and further collaboration with the Prague Philharmonia. His recital season includes appearances at Artis—Naples and the Dresdner Musikfestspiele, as well as further performances worldwide. Zhu also continues his collaboration with French composer Hugues Reiner, following the 2025 world premiere of Reiner’s first violin concerto in Paris.

Recent seasons have shown Zhu’s striking range as a storyteller. In 2025/26, he appeared with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra in Bernstein’s *Serenade (after Plato’s “Symposium”)*, performed Shostakovich’s Violin Concerto No. 1 with the China National Symphony Orchestra in Beijing’s National Centre for the Performing Arts, and Waxman’s *Carmen Fantasie* with the Sofia Philharmonic in Bulgaria. He also brought Paganini’s complete 24 Caprices on tour in South Korea.

In June 2025, Zhu returned to the Dresdner Musikfestspiele for Dvořák’s Violin Concerto with the Prague Philharmonia and Emmanuel Villaume at Dresden’s Frauenkirche. The performance drew exceptional notice in the German press: *Sächsische Zeitung* wrote that Zhu devoured the work with “musical appetite,” reveled in its folkloric character, and handled its most difficult passages with “dreamlike confidence”; *Dresdner Neueste Nachrichten* described him as “simply brilliant,” while also emphasizing his sensitivity to the concerto’s hidden inner life. The performance followed Zhu’s earlier Dresden appearance with Paganini’s 24 Caprices, further deepening his connection to one of Europe’s most important festival cities.

Zhu first gained worldwide attention at age 11, taking First Prize at the 2012 Yehudi Menuhin Competition in Beijing. Six years later, age 17, he won First Prize at the 55th Paganini Competition in Genoa, Italy. He is also a recipient of the 2021 Avery Fisher Grant, and has received further recognition from Salon de Virtuosi and the Queen Elisabeth Competition.

The Paganini lineage remains a defining thread in Zhu’s artistic life. He has performed on Paganini’s own violin, the legendary “Il Cannone” Guarneri ‘del Gesù’, and his performances of the complete 24 Caprices have become an evolving artistic project, revealing a performer as interested in character and narrative as in technical conquest.

Zhu’s career has taken him to renowned halls and festivals across the globe, including Konzerthaus Berlin, London’s Royal Festival Hall, the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing, the Esplanade Concert Hall in Singapore, Bozar Brussels, The Kennedy Center, and the Auditorio Nacional in Madrid. He has appeared with orchestras including the Dresdner Festspielorchester, Prague Philharmonia, Antwerp Symphony Orchestra, Belgian National Orchestra; the China Philharmonic and NCPA, National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra, Hong Kong Sinfonietta; Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Colorado Springs Philharmonic, Orchestra del Teatro Comunale di Bologna, and the Polska Filharmonia Baltycka.

Kevin Zhu was featured on ABC Eyewitness News, BBC Radio 3, RAI Radio 3, and the Violin Channel. He serves as Culture Ambassador of the Lin Yao Ji Music Foundation of China. He studied with Itzhak Perlman and Li Lin at The Juilliard School.

Zhu performs on the c. 1700 “ex-Petri” Antonio Stradivari violin, on loan from the Ryuji Ueno Foundation and Rare Violins In Consortium, Artists and Benefactors Collaborative. He is represented worldwide by Sheldon Artists.



PHOTO: KYLE FLUBACKER

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

What the press is saying

<i>“This 25-year-old American violinist is no ordinary musician.”</i> <i>“Kevin Zhu restored us to the true meaning of value.”</i> LE DEVOIR CHRISTOPHE HUSS, JUNE 2026	<i>“Kevin Zhu delivered an absolutely stratospheric performance.”</i> <i>“It was absolutely sublime.”</i> RTBF / MUSIQ3 PIERRE SOLOT, JUNE 2024
<i>“A true lesson in fine craftsmanship. He has absolute command of his instrument.”</i> RTBF / MUSIQ3 PIERRE SOLOT, MAY 2024	<i>“Absolute virtuosity, almost blinding in its incredible purity.”</i> L’APE MUSICALE ALBERTO SPANO, TEATRO COMUNALE DI BOLOGNA, APRIL 2019
<i>“Simply brilliant.”</i> DRESDNER NEUESTE NACHRICHTEN DVOŘÁK VIOLIN CONCERTO, FRAUENKIRCHE DRESDEN, JUNE 2025	<i>“He handled the most difficult passages with dreamlike confidence.”</i> SÄCHSISCHE ZEITUNG DVOŘÁK VIOLIN CONCERTO, FRAUENKIRCHE DRESDEN, JUNE 2025

SELECTED REVIEWS & PROFILES

→ Denis Brott’s fine finds at the Montreal Chamber Music Festival LE DEVOIR	→ Dresdner Musikfestspiele: Kevin Zhu and the Prague Philharmonia in the Frauenkirche DNN
→ Magical sounds in the Frauenkirche: Kevin Zhu and Prague Philharmonia live SÄCHSISCHE ZEITUNG	→ Kevin Zhu — VC Artist page THE VIOLIN CHANNEL
→ First Prize Laureate, 55th Premio Paganini PREMIO PAGANINI	→ A very lucky first meeting — Zhu’s Tchaikovsky in Bologna L’APE MUSICALE
→ VC 20 Questions — video interview THE VIOLIN CHANNEL	



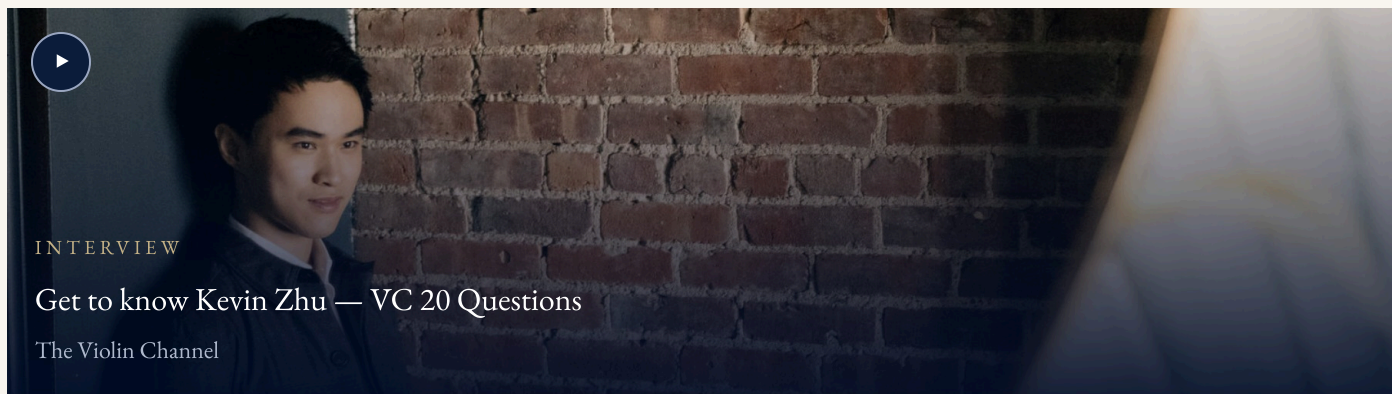
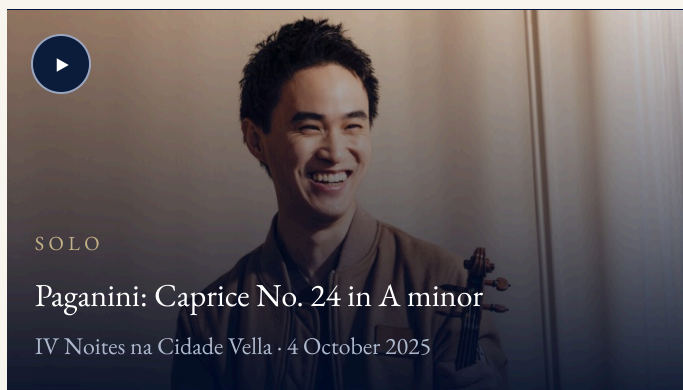
A DEFINING THREAD

The Paganini Lineage

Few violinists of any generation carry a claim to Paganini as direct as Kevin Zhu's — and fewer still treat the repertoire as an artistic platform rather than a display of technical conquest.

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- **First Prize, 55th Paganini Competition**, Genoa, at age 17
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- Has performed on **Paganini's own violin**, the legendary "Il Cannone" Guarneri 'del Gesù'
-
- Returns to Paganini's native **Genoa** in 2026/27, opening the Teatro Carlo Felice's Paganini series with the **Concerto No. 2 'La campanella'** under Jordi Bernàcer
-
- Presents the **complete 24 Caprices, Op. 1** as a standalone touring recital — an evening-length solo program performed by only a handful of artists worldwide
-
- Recent Caprices performances include an **extensive tour of China** — Shanghai, Beijing, Hangzhou, Nanjing, and more — a **national tour of South Korea**, and the **Dresdner Musikfestspiele**
-
- Performs **Paganini's Concertos Nos. 1, 2, and 3**

Performance video



Recent & upcoming highlights

2026/27 **Guiyang Symphony Orchestra**
Shostakovich: Violin Concerto No. 1 · Zhang Guoyong

2026/27 **China Recital Tour**
Shanghai, Xi'an, Chengdu, Chongqing & Tianjin · with Thomas Hoppe

2026/27 **Hong Kong Sinfonietta**
Lalo: *Symphonie espagnole* · Christoph Poppen

2026/27 **Vancouver Symphony Orchestra**
Debut · Shostakovich: Violin Concerto No. 1 · Antony Hermus

2026/27 **Hong Kong Philharmonic**
Debut · Brahms: Violin Concerto · Christoph Altstaedt

2026/27 **Teatro Carlo Felice, Genoa**
Paganini: Concerto No. 2 'La campanella' · Jordi Bernàcer

2026/27 **Prague Philharmonia**
Mozart: Violin Concerto No. 4, K. 218 · leading from the violin

2026/27 **Artis—Naples**
Recital · Paganini: 24 Caprices

2026/27 **Dresdner Musikfestspiele**
Recital

2025/26 **Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra**
Bernstein: *Serenade (after Plato's "Symposium")* · Robert Moody

2025/26 **China National Symphony Orchestra**
Shostakovich No. 1 · Jing Huan · NCPA, Beijing

2025/26 **Sofia Philharmonic**
Waxman: *Carmen Fantasie* · Felipe Tristán

2025/26 **South Korea tour**
Paganini: complete 24 Caprices

2025/26 **Hugues Reiner: Violin Concerto No. 1**
World premiere · Paris

JUNE 2026 **Montreal Chamber Music Festival**
Opening night · Salle Bourgie

JUNE 2025 **Dresdner Musikfestspiele**
Dvořák Concerto · Prague Philharmonia / Emmanuel Villaume · Frauenkirche

GALLERY

Press photography



STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHY © KYLE FLUBACKER · HIGH-RESOLUTION FILES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



IN CONCERT

REPERTOIRE

Concerto list

BACH

Concerto for Two Violins in D minor, BWV 1043

BEETHOVEN

Triple Concerto in C major, Op. 56

BERNSTEIN

Serenade (after Plato's *Symposium*)

JOSEPH BOLOGNE

Concerto in A major, Op. 5 No. 2

BRAHMS

Concerto in D major, Op. 77

BRUCH

Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 26

Scottish Fantasy, Op. 46

CHAUSSON

Poème, Op. 25

DVOŘÁK

Concerto in A minor, Op. 53

ELGAR

Concerto in B minor, Op. 61

THIERRY ESCAICH

Variations Litaniques

LALO

Symphonie espagnole, Op. 21

MENDELSSOHN

Concerto in E minor, Op. 64

MOZART

Concerto No. 3 in G major, K. 216

Concerto No. 4 in D major, K. 218

Concerto No. 5 in A major, K. 219

PAGANINI

Concerto No. 1 in D major, Op. 6

Concerto No. 2 in B minor, Op. 7

Concerto No. 3 in E major, M.S. 50

PIAZZOLLA

The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires

PROKOFIEV

Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Op. 63

SAINT-SAËNS

Concerto No. 3 in B minor, Op. 61

Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso, Op. 28

SARASATE

Carmen Fantasy, Op. 25

SHOSTAKOVICH

Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Op. 77

SIBELIUS

Concerto in D minor, Op. 47

TCHAIKOVSKY

Concerto in D major, Op. 35

VIVALDI

The Four Seasons

WAXMAN

Carmen Fantasie

ZIYANG WEN

The Four Seasons of China

WIENIAWSKI

'Faust' Fantasy, Op. 20

Recital programs

75 MINUTES PLUS INTERMISSION

Paganini: 24 Caprices for Solo Violin, Op. 1

The complete cycle, performed from memory in a single evening — a signature project and one of the rarest solo offerings on the circuit.

NEW FOR 2026/27

75 MINUTES PLUS INTERMISSION

Hungarian Dances & Viennese Waltzes

Brahms: Selections from *Hungarian Dances*, arr. Joachim

Grieg: Violin Sonata No. 3 in C minor, Op. 45

INTERMISSION

R. Strauss: Waltz from *Der Rosenkavalier*, arr. Váša Příhoda

R. Strauss: Violin Sonata in E-flat major, Op. 18

80 MINUTES PLUS INTERMISSION

Ballet Morning, Opera Evening

Stravinsky: *Suite Italienne*

Tchaikovsky: Two *Pas de deux* from *Swan Lake*, Op. 20

Prokofiev: Suite from *Romeo and Juliet*, Op. 64

INTERMISSION

Massenet: 'Méditation' from *Thaïs*

Wieniawski: 'Faust' Fantasy, Op. 20

Messiaen: *Louange à l'Immortalité de Jésus*, from *Quatuor pour la fin du temps*

Waxman: *Carmen Fantasia*

75 MINUTES PLUS INTERMISSION

An American in Paris

Gershwin, arr. Heifetz: *Porgy and Bess* Suite

Ravel: Violin Sonata in G major

INTERMISSION

Ives: Violin Sonata No. 3 — *substitute: Copland: Violin Sonata*

Waxman: *Carmen Fantasia* — *substitute: Milhaud: Cinéma-fantaisie, Op. 58b*

60 MINUTES WITHOUT INTERMISSION

An American in Paris — short form

Gershwin, arr. Heifetz: *Porgy and Bess* Suite

Lili Boulanger: *D'un matin de printemps, Nocturne, Cortège*

Copland: Violin Sonata

Ravel: Violin Sonata in G major

80 MINUTES PLUS INTERMISSION

Homage

Ravel: *Sonate posthume*

Fauré: Violin Sonata No. 1 in A major, Op. 13

INTERMISSION

Ysaÿe: *Poème élégiaque*, Op. 12

Franck: Violin Sonata in A major

60 MINUTES WITHOUT INTERMISSION

Homage — short form

Ravel: *Berceuse sur le nom de Gabriel Fauré*

Fauré: Violin Sonata No. 1 in A major, Op. 13

Ysaÿe: *Rêve d'enfant*, Op. 14

Franck: Violin Sonata in A major

60 MINUTES WITHOUT INTERMISSION

Northern Lights

Svendsen: *Romance*, Op. 26

Grieg: Violin Sonata No. 3 in C minor, Op. 45

Tchaikovsky: *Valse-Scherzo*, Op. 34

Prokofiev: Violin Sonata No. 2 in D major, Op. 94bis

60 MINUTES WITHOUT INTERMISSION · NO PIANO

Solo Bach & Bartók

Bartók: Sonata for Solo Violin, Sz. 117

Bach: Partita No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1004

Halls, partners & media

SELECTED HALLS & FESTIVALS

The Kennedy Center, Washington DC

Royal Festival Hall, London

Konzerthaus Berlin

Bozar, Brussels

Auditorio Nacional, Madrid

Frauenkirche & Kulturpalast, Dresden

Forbidden City Concert Hall, Beijing

Esplanade Concert Hall, Singapore

INSTRUMENT & PATRONAGE

Ryuji Ueno Foundation

Rare Violins of New York

CHAMBER COLLABORATORS

Karen Gomyo, violin

Christoph Poppen, violin

Clara-Jumi Kang, violin

Alexander Sitkovetsky, violin

Kristóf Baráti, violin

Lawrence Power, viola

Paul Neubauer, viola

Jan Vogler, cello

Carter Brey, cello

Santiago Cañón-Valencia, cello

Louis Lortie, piano

Sunwook Kim, piano

Haochen Zhang*, piano

* upcoming

MEDIA & BROADCAST

BBC Radio 3

RAI Radio 3

ABC Eyewitness News

The Violin Channel

Culture Ambassador, Lin Yao Ji Music Foundation of China

ONLINE

kevinzhuviolin.com

sheldonartists.com/kevin-zhu



REPRESENTATION

Kevin Zhu is represented
worldwide by
Sheldon Artists

For availability, fees, and program
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