



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **All Classical Portland Extends Pianist María García's Residency, Announces 2023 Young Artist in Residence + Three New Youth Ambassadors**

*The station has extended pianist **María García's** Residency and named 16-year-old **Amir Avsker** as its 2023 Young Artist in Residence. All Classical Portland has also appointed three new Young Artist Ambassadors.*

**PORTLAND, OREGON** – **All Classical Portland**, the Pacific Northwest's premier 24-hour classical music radio station, is proud to announce 16-year-old pianist, violinist, and composer **Amir Avsker** as its 2023 Young Artist in Residence. A sophomore at Westview High School in Beaverton, OR, Amir began playing the piano in 2014 and the violin in 2019. He has participated in and won several local and international music competitions and festivals, including the 29th *Young Artist Debut Competition* and the 2022 *InterHarmony International Music Festival* in Italy. To date, Amir has written over 40 original compositions, including works for solo instruments, chamber ensembles, and orchestras.

"This residency will be an extraordinary experience for me," says **Amir**, "But also for aspiring young musicians, whom I hope will be inspired and empowered to see the immense support for classical music in our community. The most important and enjoyable part of making music for me is working with other passionate musicians. With this title, I hope to bring together my generation of talented musicians."

Amir will help create content for the station's digital channels as well as perform on a future episode of the weekly program *Thursdays @ Three*, hosted by **Christa Wessel**. He will work closely with pianist **María García**, All Classical Portland's professional Artist in Residence, whose residency has recently been extended. First appointed in 2022, María has performed on the station's on-air programs and in-person events, written for the station's [Arts Blog](#), and presented bilingual story times in English and Spanish on All Classical's second station, the **International Children's Arts Network**. She will continue to offer exclusive content on the station's two networks and help mentor the Young Artists and Ambassadors.

First launched in 2019, All Classical Portland's Young Artist in Residence program has continued to grow and flourish since its inception. In 2022, the station expanded its youth residency program



with the first-of-its-kind Young Artist Ambassadors, building upon its commitment to serving youth regionally and across the country. Now, the station is proud to announce a new cohort of Ambassadors for 2023: 18-year-old home-schooled cellist and vocalist **Catherine Hartrim-Lowe**, 16-year-old Westview High School junior and violinist **Ellie Kim**, and 17-year-old Aloha High School senior and violinist **Timothy Lee**.

“Inspired by the abundance of incredible talent in our region, All Classical’s young artist residency engages and champions the up-and-coming musicians of our region,” shares Communications Manager **Kristina Becker**, who oversees the station’s unique Artist in Residence programs. “These residencies provide an opportunity for us to amplify talent, voices, and perspectives, and to showcase these dedicated musicians on our global radio stage, reaching listeners across the Pacific Northwest and far beyond.”

The Young Artist programs include a financial award to support continued studies, opportunities to perform on radio programs and at events, and access to All Classical Portland’s expansive network, recording facilities, and digital archives.

The Artist in Residence program is just one way that the station advances equity and inclusion and continued appreciation for classical music and education. All Classical Portland also uplifts young and diverse creatives in the Pacific Northwest through an internship program, giving college students and recent graduates the opportunity to learn about broadcast media, station operations, and how to make outstanding radio and podcasts. Since 2013, All Classical Portland has spotlighted young musicians every Saturday at 5:00 PM PT on the series *On Deck with Young Musicians*. The program is hosted by **Christa Wessel**, **Amy Faust**, **Raúl Gómez-Rojas**, and **Adam Eccleston**.

Previous Young Artists in Residence include double bass player **Maggie Carter** (2022), cellist **Taylor Yoon** (2019), and pianist **Natalie Tan** (2020). The station named its first-ever Young Artist Ambassadors in 2022. The inaugural class of Ambassadors included violinist **Noah Carr**, flute player **Diego Fernandez**, oboist **Ben Price**, and violinist **Nate Strothkamp**. All Classical Portland’s previous professional Artists in Residence include concert pianist **Hunter Noack** (2019) and flutist **Adam Eccleston** (2020-2021).

To learn more about All Classical Portland’s Artist in Residence programs, as well as past and current artists and opportunities, visit [allclassical.org/artists-in-residence](https://allclassical.org/artists-in-residence).



*Photo: Christine Dong*

**Who:** [All Classical Portland](#), the Pacific Northwest's premier 24-hour classical music radio station

**What:** Announcing 2023 Young Artist in Residence and Young Artist Ambassadors

- 2023 Young Artist in Residence
  - 16-year-old pianist, violinist, and composer **Amir Avsker**
- 2023 Young Artist Ambassadors
  - 18-year-old cellist and vocalist **Catherine Hartrim-Lowe**
  - 16-year-old violinist **Ellie Kim**
  - 17-year-old violinist **Timothy Lee**

**Where:**

- All Classical Portland: 89.9 FM in Portland and worldwide at [allclassical.org](https://allclassical.org)
- More information about Artists in Residence at [allclassical.org/artists-in-residence](https://allclassical.org/artists-in-residence)

## About:

**All Classical Portland** is an independent and community-funded radio station, providing access to classical music, outstanding performances, information about the arts, and more since 1983. The station provides an innovative classical soundtrack of the Pacific Northwest, with FM signals broadcasting from the heart of the Columbia Gorge to the beautiful Oregon Coast, and from Willamette Valley's wine country up to Vancouver, Washington.

To listen from anywhere in the world, or for more information, visit [allclassical.org](http://allclassical.org).

## Bios:

### 2023 Young Artist in Residence

#### Amir Avsker



Photo: Christine Dong

Born in Israel in 2006, violinist, pianist, composer, and conductor **Amir Avsker** lived in Japan and Pennsylvania before moving to Oregon in 2015. Amir began studying music in Israel in 2014, playing piano and composing his own music very soon after, at the age of eight. He began playing violin in 2019. Amir has written over 40 compositions for solo instruments, chamber ensembles, and orchestral works. He is currently working on his first opera.

Amir won the 2019 *Oregon Music Education Association Composition Competition* in the middle school division. He was also the co-winner of the 2023 *Metropolitan Youth Symphony Concerto Competition* in the piano category and one of the 29th *Young Artist Debut Competition* winners. In the summer of 2022, Amir participated as a violinist in the *InterHarmony International Music Festival* in Acqui Terme, Italy. He is now in his fourth year with Fear No Music's Young Composers Project, and in his fourth year in the Metropolitan Youth Symphony, where he plays the violin. When he is not preparing for concerts, Amir likes to play with his dog, Sammi, and his pet rabbit, Oren.



## Artist in Residence

### María García



Photo: Andrew Wallner

**María García** began piano studies in her native Puerto Rico at the age of four. At the age of ten, she made her debut with the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra. She received a Bachelor of Music with Distinction in Performance from the New England Conservatory of Music. Graduate studies followed at SUNY Stony Brook, where she received a full merit scholarship and completed a Master's Degree in Music.

An active chamber musician and soloist, García has performed throughout the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Czech and Slovak Republics, Norway, Canada, Israel, Venezuela, Tunisia, Colombia, and Puerto Rico with groups like the Oregon Symphony, the Mark Morris Dance Company, her former Piano Trio Melange, Bamberg String Quartet, Madawaska String Quartet, Musical Chairs Ensemble, and Poetica Musica.

## 2023 Young Artist Ambassadors

### Catherine Hartrim-Lowe



Photo: Christine Dong

18-year-old **Catherine Hartrim-Lowe** is currently a homeschooled senior. She began playing piano at the age of five, singing in choirs at the age of seven, and playing cello at the age of nine. Currently, she serves as a principal cellist and soloist of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony and their string ensemble MYSfits. With MYSfits, she has participated in masterclasses with members of the Kronos Quartet, Fear No Music, and A Far Cry.

Catherine sings with the Pacific Youth Choir, where she has had opportunities to perform and solo with the Oregon Symphony, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Capella Romana, Chanticleer, and Thomas Lauderdale – the founder of Pink Martini. In the summer of 2022, she worked with Dr. Anton Armstrong and Kathy Romey at the Oregon Bach Festival. In her free time, Catherine enjoys long walks, knitting, outings with siblings, and spending time with the alpacas, goats, and cows on her family's hobby farm.

## Ellie Kim



Photo: Christine Dong

A 16-year-old violinist from Portland, Oregon, **Ellie Kim**, started playing violin at the age of five. She currently studies with Carol Sindell. In 2020, she won first prize in the *Young Artist of the Canadian International Music Competition* and second prize in the senior division of the 2022 *Oregon Mozart Players Young Artist Competition*. She has also been awarded prizes by the Monday Musical Club, the Oregon Music Teachers Association Instrumental Scholarship, and the Jeannette Scott Briggs Scholarship. She was also a winner of the *Cognizart Young Artists Debut! Competition* and soloed with members of the Oregon Symphony.

She studied with Klaudia Szlachta, Miguel Pérez-Espejo Cárdenas, and Hsin-Lin Tsai at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute in 2021, participating in the Violin Workshop and Young Artist Orchestra. She is also an ambassador for the Interlochen Arts Summer Academy and a member of the Portland Youth Philharmonic. She loves expressing herself through music and enjoys exploring various styles as she learns to become a more artistic musician.

## Timothy Lee



Photo: Christine Dong

**Timothy Lee** is currently a senior at Aloha High School. He has been playing the violin for 12 years and currently studies with Carol Sindell. He has been a member of the Portland Youth Philharmonic for six years and has served as a co-concertmaster for the past three years. In 2020, Timothy attended the National Symphony Orchestra's Summer Music Institute. He won 1st place in the 2021 *Oregon ASTA Solo Competition* and the 2022 *Oregon Music Education Association State Solo Contest*.

In 2022, he performed a solo with the Central Oregon Symphony as the first-place winner of their *Young Artist Competition* and with members of the Oregon Symphony as a winner of the *Cognizart Young Artists Debut! Competition*. Through his music, Timothy has a personal mission to serve his community. He and his older brother frequently perform free concerts in local churches, nursing homes, and the Korean Society of Oregon. In Fall 2023, Timothy will study music and political science as a freshman at Yale University.