**LIPC Official Biography**

As of 1.8.24

A true celebration of youth and talent under 30, ‘The Leeds’ is considered one of the most prestigious music competitions in the world. Since 1963, the Leeds International Piano Competition has shaped the future of classical music, responsible for spotlighting generations of young, world-class pianists and launching them into long, successful careers.

With an impact that resonates around the globe, the competition reaches a digital audience of over 5 million, and last year alone, 6 million explored our digital archive of legendary piano performances.

Global as we may be, we’re deeply passionate about our community. Bringing people together through a shared love of music, our year-round music and educational programmes contribute to Leeds’ vibrant culture. The Leeds Piano Trail, brings the spirit of the competition to every corner of our city and the Leeds Piano Trail festival was awarded a prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society Award in 2023. The competition’s schools programme, in partnership with Artforms Leeds and the Lang Lang International Music Foundation, plays a central role in engaging local children and young people with the piano, while also providing support for teachers and resources in music education for schools in Leeds and internationally.

Co-founded by Fanny Waterman, a local piano teacher and Marion Thorpe, Countess of Harewood, over the past 60 years the competition has launched the careers of some of the greatest pianists of our time. [Previous winners](https://leedspiano.medici.tv/en/about/past-winners/) include Radu Lupu, Murray Perahia, Dmitri Alexeev, Alessio Bax, Sunwook Kim, Sofya Gulyak, Federico Colli, Anna Tsybuleva, Eric Lu and Alim Beisembayev. Equally illustrious are the names of finalists, including Mitsuko Uchida and Sir Andras Schiff, Kathryn Stott, Peter Donohoe, Louis Lortie, Lars Vogt, Leon MacCawley, Sa Chen, Denis Kozhukhin, Louis Schwizgebel. Their exceptional talent continues to inspire generations of pianists.

Dame Fanny Waterman (1920-2020) chaired the jury from 1981 until her retirement in 2015 at the age of 95. She was succeeded by pianist Paul Lewis (2018) and current Artistic Director, Adam Gatehouse, and the competition is honoured to have the support of Murray Perahia as Patron and Lang Lang as Global Ambassador.

The historic Leeds Town Hall has served as the iconic venue for the competition's finals, with exceptions in 1975 and 2024 due to renovations. In 2024, the finals will take place in St. George's Hall, Bradford, before returning to the majestic backdrop of the Town Hall in 2027, accompanied by the installation of a Blue Plaque commemorating Dame Fanny Waterman's life.

Esteemed UK orchestras, including the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and the Hallé, have played a crucial role in supporting the concerto finals. These performances have brought emerging talents together with renowned conductors such as Sir Charles Groves, Sir Simon Rattle, and Sir Mark Elder, often sparking enduring relationships.

The 21st Edition of the Leeds International Piano Competition will take place at the University of Leeds, the Competition’s Principal Partner, and at St.George’s Hall, Bradford, between the 11th and 21st September 2024.

You can watch live streams and replays on:

<https://www.leedspiano.com/media-hub/>

<https://leedspiano.medici.tv/en>

<http://www.amadeus.tv>