



Ernst von Siemens Music Prize 2024 to Unsuk Chin Composer prizes for Bára Gísladóttir, Daniele Ghisi and Yiqing Zhu The Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation will grant a total of 3.65 million euros in 2024

The international Ernst von Siemens Music Prize 2024 will be awarded to the South Korean composer Unsuk Chin. The award for a life in the service of music is endowed with 250,000 euros. The award ceremony will take place on May, 18th, 2024 in the Herkules Hall of the Munich Residence. The 2024 composer prizes of 35,000 euros each will go to Bára Gísladóttir from Iceland, the Italian Daniele Ghisi and Yiqing Zhu from China.

Ernst von Siemens Music Prize 2024 goes to Unsuk Chin

With Unsuk Chin, the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation is honouring an internationally renowned composer whose works are performed worldwide. With her great successes such as the opera *Alice in Wonderland*, she has opened up new paths for new music and inspired a wide audience. Chin does not override traditional concepts such as melody and harmony, but reinterprets them again and again. Her works are characterised by lucid, dreamlike sounds and a humorous lightness. The result is music that is easily accessible to the audience, but at the same time remains complex and challenging. Chin sees herself as an international composer who is familiar with both Asian and Western culture.

Unsuk Chin was born in Seoul in 1961. She initially studied composition in South Korea before a DAAD scholarship gave her the opportunity to continue her studies with György Ligeti in Hamburg. She moved to Berlin at the end of the 1980s. It was here that she became acquainted with electroacoustic music, which still characterises her compositional thinking today. From this experience, she opens up an infinite spectrum of sound possibilities, from pure to amplified and electronically modified instrumental sounds. For her, this is the pool from which she develops ideas. Unsuk Chin describes her music as "*a reflection of my dreams. I try to weave the impression of radiant light and the luminosity of colours from my dreams into the music, a play of light and colours that fills the space and takes on an acoustic form.*"

Unsuk Chin has composed works for all musical genres and instrumentations. A milestone in her career is the Violin Concerto No. 1 (2001). This work was honoured for its *synthesis of glittering orchestration, rare sonority, fleeting expression, musical riddles and unexpected twists and turns*. The concerto *Šu* for Sheng and orchestra marks a turning point in her compositional oeuvre. *Šu* was written for Wu Wei and the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra and was premiered at Suntory Hall in 2009. This is the first time she has composed for a traditional Asian instrument. This work has broadened her perspective and created access to Korean music. In 2007, her only opera to date, *Alice in Wonderland*, was premiered at the Bavarian State Opera in Munich under Kent Nagano, delighting press and audience alike. It showcases Chin's sound imagination and her synaesthetic sense of the colour and aroma of music.

Unsuk Chin has not lost her connection to her home country to this day. From 2006-2018, Chin led the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra's New Music series, which she founded. In 2022 she was assigned the artistic direction of the Tongyeong International Festival in South Korea as well as of the Weiwuying International Music Festival in Taiwan. This season, she is Composer in Residence at the Basel Symphony Orchestra.

Unsuk Chin's works have been published exclusively by [Boosey & Hawkes](#) since 1994.

Award ceremony on May 18th, 2024 at the Munich Residence

The Ernst von Siemens Music Prize and the Composer Prizes will be awarded on May 18th, 2024 in the Herkules Hall of the Munich Residence. The laudatory speech for Unsuk Chin will be held by Louwrens



Langevoort, Director of the Kölner Philharmonie. The Ensemble intercontemporain will perform works by the Music prizewinner under the direction of its new musical director Pierre Bleuse. The Composition Prize winners will be presented in short film portraits by Johannes List as well as with their own works.

The Composer Prizes go to Bára Gísladóttir from Iceland, the Italian Daniele Ghisi and Yiqing Zhu from China.

The 2024 Composer Prizes, each worth 35,000 euros, will go to Bára Gísladóttir from Iceland, the Italian Daniele Ghisi and Yiqing Zhu from China. In addition to the prize money, music productions are also part of the award.

Bára Gísladóttir

[Bára Gísladóttir](#) (*1989) is an Icelandic composer and double bass player. She studied composition at the Iceland Academy of the Arts in Reykjavík, at the Conservatorio di Musica "Giuseppe Verdi" in Milan and at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen. As an active performer, she regularly plays her own music, solo or with her long-time collaborator Skúli Sverrisson. Occasionally she also performs as a soloist with ensembles and orchestras, most recently with her own double bass concerto *Hringla* with Copenhagen Phil and the Iceland Symphony Orchestra.

Daniele Ghisi

[Daniele Ghisi](#) (*1984) studied composition in his native Italy with Stefano Gervasoni in Bergamo and mathematics in Milan. He also attended masterclasses with Helmut Lachenmann, Brian Ferneyhough, Michael Jarrell and Pierluigi Billone. In 2017, he completed his doctorate in composition and music research at Ircam and the Sorbonne. In 2020, he moved to Berkley as a research assistant at the University of California. He currently teaches electroacoustic composition at the Turin Conservatory. He is co-founder of the collective /nu/thing and co-creator of the project "bach: automated composer's helper", a computerised real-time composition library.

Yiqing Zhu

[Yiqing Zhu](#) (*1989) is a Chinese composer and pianist. He learnt to play a variety of instruments as a child, including the piano, accordion and violin. In 2008, he began studying composition at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. He continued his studies at the Royal Danish Academy of Music as part of the Erasmus programme. He then went to the State University of Music and Performing Arts in Stuttgart, where he graduated in 2019. His teachers include Huang Lv, Niels Rosing-Schow and Marco Stroppa. Zhu is currently a teacher of composition at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. In addition to contemporary music, he is also interested in traditional Eastern music, jazz and world music.

Ensemble Prizes '24

The Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation's Ensemble Prize was established in 2020 to support ensembles as individually and sustainably as possible in their artistic and structural development. 150,000 euros is available annually for this purpose. For the Ensemble Prize '24, the Board of Trustees chose the Broken Frames Syndicate from Frankfurt and Frames Percussion from Barcelona.

The application deadline for the Ensemble Prize '25 is March 15th, 2024:

ensemble-foerderpreis.evs-musikstiftung.ch

Applications are open to young, professional ensembles. The prerequisite for a successful application is that the ensemble can demonstrate many years of concert experience with a regular line-up. In addition, the majority of ensemble members should be under 35 years of age. The ensemble should focus primarily on contemporary music repertoire.



The Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation is awarding a total of 3.65 million euros

Project funding

The Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation will award a total of 3.65 million euros in funding in 2024. At over three million euros, the largest share of the funding will go to contemporary music projects worldwide. The Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation supports composition commissions for small ensembles through to choral and orchestral works from Portugal to Finland, from Australia to Greece. Composition commissions for music theatre are also made possible, this year for example to Lucia Ronchetti for her world premiere at the Schwetzingen SWR Festival. Concerts and festivals from Tel Aviv to Krakow, Paris and New York are also supported. The cataloguing of Hans Werner Henze's library is being completed with the support of the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation. Numerous academies for young composers and performers are also supported, such as the International Young Composers Academy Ticino. The Music Foundation is also active in the area of promoting young talent. This year, it is supporting a project for children and young people in which the young people compose their own works, which are then presented at a family concert in Dresden (Germany).

The deadline for applications for project funding is March 1st, 2024:

[Funding | Ernst von Siemens Musikstiftung \(evs-musikstiftung.ch\)](#)

räsonanz – donor concerts

The Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation also provides additional funding for the *räsonanz* – donor concert series. Together with Lucerne Festival and *musica viva* of Bayerischer Rundfunk, the foundation enables annual concerts with top international orchestras and renowned soloists performing works by contemporary composers. The concerts will take place on September 12th, 2024 at the KKL Lucerne and on September, 28th, 2024 at the Prinzregententheater in Munich.

Note

The Ernst von Siemens Music Prize (EvS Music Prize) has been awarded annually since 1973 by the private Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation (EvS Music Foundation), which is based in Switzerland. It is not a prize of Siemens AG or the Siemens Foundation, which is affiliated with the company. For this reason, please ensure that the name of the foundation and the prize are correctly reproduced.

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