

Illia Ovcharenko was 6 when he decided to be a pianist when he grew up.

Today he's a celebrated virtuoso playing concerts all over the world

He's the 2023 winner of the Honens International Piano Competition in Calgary, along with top prizes at the New York, Hilton Head, Busoni and Horowitz Piano competitions. Highlights of the 2023/24 season include debuts with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Liechtenstein Symphony, and Haifa Symphony, as well as return engagements with the Calgary Philharmonic. Illia is scheduled to perform at Koerner Hall in Toronto, Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, Sendesaal in Hannover, Robert-Schumann-Saal in Düsseldorf, and Salle Bourgie in Montréal in the upcoming season.

Illia began piano lessons at 9 and gave his first concert at 12. At 13 he moved to Kyiv, and later to Tel Aviv, for advanced training. He's currently finishing a master's program with his longtime mentor, Arie Vardi, in Hannover.

He thrives on live performance, feeling as if two souls - his and the composer's - are united together on stage. He's most at home playing romantic repertoire.