

## The IBLA Grande Prize International Competition

(May 08, 2014)



Now in its 23rd year, the IBLA Grand Prize International Music Competition has become one of the world's cultural treasures. Held each summer in Ragusa-Ibla, the competition's founder, Dr. Salvatore Moltisanti, himself a pianist, has created an atmosphere that encourages openness to all forms of music. Baroness Mariuccia Zerilli Marimò, Chairwoman, Stefano Albertini, Director of NYU Casa Italiana Zerilli Marimò, Dr. Salvatore Moltisanti, President IBLA Foundation present The IBLA GRAND PRIZE International Competition Winners featuring World Class Performers from Europe, Russia, Asia and the U.S.

"The sunbaked island of Sicily, the largest and historically richest in the Mediterranean, is the scene of the annual IBLA GRAND PRIZE, a piano competition held in a hall buried among the clusters of 17th and 18th century stone buildings that crowd the little threads of streets. The rocky town of only 80,000 lies just a few miles from where Ionian and Mediterranean meet at Sicily's southern most tip. Hearing piano-playing in this kind of setting is amazing. It is like the opening of an ornate and ancient casket only to find it stocked with glittering gems."



-Gordon Sparber, Winston-Salem Journal, NC, USA

Now in its 23rd year, the [IBLA Grand Prize International](#) [2] Music Competition has become one of the world's cultural treasures. Held each summer in Ragusa-Ibla, the quietly beautiful baroque quarter of the Sicilian provincial capital of Ragusa, the competition has consistently proven to be a world-class showcase for musical talent of the highest order.

The competition's founder, Dr. Salvatore Moltisanti, himself a pianist, has created an atmosphere that encourages openness to all forms of music, allowing presentations of all musical styles and instruments including several types of jazz ensembles, domra virtuosos, accordionists, folk singers, and many others from outside the classical mainstream, as well as instrumental and vocal performers of standard and contemporary repertoire. The IBLA event thus is a place where the ideas of wonderfully talented people can be nurtured in a spirit of respect.

Every year the Baroness Maria Zerilli-Marimò, Chairwoman of the IBLA Foundation, offers people the opportunity to experience the extraordinary talent of these musicians at Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò of NYU with a series of events leading up to and following the annual Gala concert. This year the concerts will take place on May 14 at Carnegie Weill Recital Hall and at Casa Italiana Zerilli Marimò'. As we have come to expect, the event will present musicians of the highest order.

Ibla is the name of an ancient baroque enclave, the hilltop UNESCO World Heritage site that sits below more modern center of Ragusa. The city and its surrounding Monti Iblei are but 18 minutes away from the Mediterranean coast.

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### **Three days of performances at [Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò](#)' [3]**

#### **May 12, 2014**

##### **(06:00 PM )**

The first day of performances at Casa Italiana will feature pianist Cong Cong, performing music by the Russian composer Sergei Rachmaninoff, before his Carnegie Hall debut.

#### **May 13, 2014**

##### **(06:00 PM )**

The second of three days of performances at Casa Italiana will feature French harpist in the world, [Claire Iselin](#) [4], before her Carnegie Hall debut.

#### **May 16, 2014**

##### **(06:00 PM )**

The last of three days of performances at Casa Italiana will feature cellist [Christoph Croise](#) [5], soon after his Carnegie Debut.

List of performers this year

### **LIST OF PERFORMERS**

Anujin Altangerel, Piano / MONGOLIA  
Vito Amato - Percussion / ITALY  
Vladimir Anisimov, Saxophone / RUSSIA  
Natalia Anisimova, Piano / RUSSIA  
Kris Becker, Piano / USA  
Sergio Cali, Percussion / ITALY  
Cong Cong Chai, Piano / HONG KONG  
Christophe Croise, Cello / SWITZERLAND  
Antonino Errera, Percussion / ITALY  
Michal Gajda, Accordion / POLAND  
Anzel Gerber, Cello / SOUTH AFRICA  
Robert Guzik, Guitar / POLAND  
Kai Han, Piano / USA



Claire Iselin, Harp / FRANCE  
Matei Ioachimescu, Flute / ROMANIA  
Ariunzaya Jargalsaikhan, Piano / MONGOLIA  
Ian Miller, Piano / USA  
Alexander Panfilov, Piano / RUSSIA  
Alessandro Russo, Piano / USA  
Ben Schoeman, Piano / SOUTH AFRICA  
Gabriella Sultana, Piano / MALTA  
Raika Tetsu, Violin / JAPAN  
Ana Topalovic, Cello / SERBIA  
Adam Woch, Guitar / POLAND

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- [2] <http://www.ibla.org/>
- [3] <http://www.casaitaliananyu.org/>
- [4] <http://www.claireiselin.com/>
- [5] <http://www.christophcroise.ch/en/>