

Itai Navon – CV

Recognized for his clarity and interpretative depth, Itai Navon's performances have been praised for "great clarity, coupled with an almost childlike joy of playing" (General-Anzeiger Bonn), as well as his ability to "effortlessly master the most difficult technical passages and produce impressively diverse sounds" (Wetzlarer Neue Zeitung).

Itai Navon has performed at a wide range of international venues, including Wigmore Hall in London, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Victoria Hall in Geneva, Berlin's Konzerthaus and Pierre Boulez Saal, Ehrbar Saal in Vienna, Beethovenhaus in Bonn, and deSingel Art Centre in Antwerp. He has also appeared at festivals such as Klavierfestival Ruhr, Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Kronberg Festival, Kultursommer Nordhessen, Musikfestspiele Saar, and Into the Open in Germany; Mahler Festival in the Netherlands; Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad and Menuhin Festival in Switzerland; Szent Gellért Fesztivál and Klassz a pARTon in Hungary; Copenhagen Summer Festival in Denmark and Bath Music Festival in the UK.

As a soloist, Navon has collaborated with leading conductors such as Matthias Pintscher, Yoon Kuk Lee, Yeruham Scharovsky, Avi Ostrowsky, Bar Avni, and Giuseppe Mentuccia, performing with orchestras and ensembles including the Anima Musicae Chamber Orchestra, the Boulez Ensemble, the Israel Camerata Jerusalem, the Israel Symphony Orchestra, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, and the Symphonette Raanana.

In the 2018–19 season, at the invitation of pianist Sir Andrés Schiff, Navon participated in the Building Bridges concert series, presenting solo recitals across Europe. In 2021, he took part in a series of filmed sessions with Daniel Barenboim, working on Beethoven's piano sonatas and cello sonatas.

Navon began his piano studies with Esther Narkiss in Jerusalem and continued with Emanuel Krasovsky at the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music in Tel Aviv. He took part in the Jerusalem Music Centre's programs for outstanding young musicians, where he participated in masterclasses with artists such as Murray Perahia, Emanuel Ax, Angela Hewitt and others. He completed his studies at the Barenboim-Said Akademie in Berlin (2018–2022) under Sir Andrés Schiff, and from 2022 to 2025 studied at the Kronberg Academy's Sir Andrés Schiff Performance Programme for Young Pianists, where he worked with guest artists such as Dénes Várjon, Kirill Gerstein, Alfred Brendel, Richard Goode, and Robert Levin. His studies at Kronberg were supported by the König/Reinhuber patronage and the Szloma-Albam Stiftung.

Michael Shaham – Violin

Michael Shaham has appeared as a soloist with leading international orchestras, including the Tokyo Philharmonic, Vienna Radio Symphony, Montreal Symphony, National Symphony of Colombia, and all major Israeli ensembles, such as the Israel Philharmonic, Jerusalem Symphony, and Israel Symphony Orchestra. He has collaborated with distinguished conductors including Rafael Payare, Alexander Joel, and Kanade Yokoyama.

Shaham is a prizewinner of numerous international competitions. He was awarded 2nd Prize at the Fritz Kreisler International Violin Competition in Vienna (2022) and was a laureate of the Concours Musical International de Montréal (2023). He also won 1st Prize at the Aviv Competitions in Tel Aviv (2025) and 1st Prize at the ISA Challenge Competition in Austria (2022). Earlier in his career, he received the Arkady Fomin Award (2018), leading to a performance of Bach's Double Concerto with Vadim Gluzman and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra.

He currently studies with Janine Jansen at the prestigious Kronberg Academy in Germany and is an alumnus of the Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied under Ida Kavafian and Shmuel Ashkenasi. He was also a long-time scholarship recipient of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation (AICF) and a participant in the Jerusalem Music Centre's Goldman Program.

Recent highlights include performances with Sir Andrés Schiff in Kronberg and at London's Wigmore Hall. Shaham is also an avid chamber musician, having appeared alongside renowned artists such as Vadim Gluzman, Lawrence Power, Timothy Ridout, Gary Hoffman, Raphael Wallfisch, Torleif Thedéen, Kian Soltani, Pablo Ferrández, Itamar Golan, Avedis Kouyoumdjian, and Arnon Erez.

Upcoming engagements feature solo appearances with the Israel Philharmonic, Stuttgart Philharmonic, Klassische Philharmonie Bonn, and the Württemberg Chamber Orchestra Heilbronn.

Michael Shaham performs on a violin by Omobono Stradivarius, c.1700, generously loaned to him by a member of the Stretton Society.

Clara Yuna Friedensburg

Musician - cellist

Born: 26th August 2007

Nationality: Norwegian and German



"With an expressive and highly emotional vulnerability in her playing, Clara's powerful yet passionate tone and phrasing offer the audience an intense and unforgettable experience."

— Jury of the Polstjärnepriset (Swedish Polestar Prize)

Biography

Clara Yuna Friedensburg (18) grew up in a musical family and began playing the cello at seven. She debuted in Norway at eleven and has since performed with renowned orchestras, including the Kremerata Baltica, the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra.

Clara has been awarded the prestigious Prix Young Artist of the Year 2024, the Swedish Polestar Prize, as well as first and special prizes at the Bundeswettbewerb Jugend Musiziert. In 2025 Clara was admitted to Podium as one of only three scholarship holders, a talent program initiated and run by Talent Norway.

Clara plays a cello by Francesco Ruggieri, Cremona 1688, generously on loan from the Norwegian ASAF foundation. She is a scholarship holder of the Norwegian ASAF and Tom Wilhelmsen Foundations and the German Hans and Stefan Bernbeck Foundation. Since October 2024, Clara has been studying at Kronberg Academy with Frans Helmerson. Her studies are funded by the Strauss patronage.