Leia Zhu

Violinist

Celebrated for her exceptional musical maturity and credited with “a poise and musical intelligence beyond her years” by The Guardian, 18-year-old British violinist Leia Zhu has performed on the international stage in more than 20 countries since her debut at the age of four. In 2025, she was named Young Talent of the Year at the prestigious Opus Klassik Awards, recognising her expressive depth and technical brilliance as one of the most exciting young artists of her generation.

Zhu’s recent and upcoming highlights for the 2025/26 season include her return to the London Philharmonic Orchestra performing Prokofiev’s Violin Concerto No.2, and her debut at Meisterzyklus Bern with Howard Griffiths and Camerata Schweiz, performing Mozart’s Violin Concerto No.3. She also joins the Arctic Philharmonic under Samuel Lee for another performance of Prokofiev’s Violin Concerto No.2 and she will be touring with Luzern Festival Strings performing in Munich and Wurzburg.

In 2023, Zhu made her concerto debut with the Tonhalle-Orchestra Zurich, performing Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto under Paavo Järvi, and appeared at the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, as well as in recital at Wigmore Hall and Bechstein Hall. She also returned as a soloist with the Lucerne Festival Strings and Armenian Philharmonic, and performed chamber recitals at the Fundación Juan March, Wimbledon International Music Festival, and Festival Flâneries de Reims.

Previously, Zhu performed with Sir Simon Rattle with the London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, the London Philharmonic, Luzerner Sinfonieorchester, and appeared at major venues including Tonhalle Zürich, Mozarteum Salzburg, Berliner Philharmonie, and Royal Festival Hall. She was Artist-in-Residence with the London Mozart Players from 2021-2023, contributing to both performance and educational outreach.

This season, she released her debut recordings: one with the Vienna Radio Orchestra and Howard Griffiths for Berlin Classics, featuring most of Saint-Saëns’ violin orchestral works, which won the Opus Klassik Award for Young Talent; and another of Mansurian’s Violin Concerto with the Armenian State Symphony Orchestra.

A passionate advocate for music education, Zhu is a patron of the HarrisonParrott Foundation, promoting access to classical music across generations. She has been featured on Classic FM, BBC News, ITV, and The Strad, and shares her musical journey with thousands of followers on her popular social media channels. She has also published her first book *“Bows, Strings and Dreams*” on her concert experiences as a young player.