

Yale SCHOOL OF MUSIC

José García-León, Dean

ARTIST DIPLOMA RECITAL

Vitaly Starikov, *piano*

February 4, 2026 | 7:30 p.m. | Morse Recital Hall in Sprague Memorial Hall

Johann Sebastian Bach
1685–1750

Italian Concerto, BWV 971

- I. [without tempo designation]
- II. Andante
- III. Presto

Dmitry Shostakovich
1906–1975

Sonata No. 2 in B minor, Op. 61

- I. Allegretto
- II. Largo
- III. Moderato – Allegretto con moto – Adagio – Moderato

INTERMISSION

Program *cont.*

Claude Debussy
1862–1918

12 Études, CD 143

- I. Pour les cinq doigts (after M. Czerny)
- II. Pour les tierces
- III. Pour les quartes
- IV. Pour les sixtes
- V. Pour les octaves
- VI. Pour les huit doigts
- VII. Pour les degrés chromatiques
- VIII. Pour les agréments
- IX. Pour les notes répétées
- X. Pour les sonorités opposées
- XI. Pour les arpèges composés
- XII. Pour les accords

*This performance is in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Artist Diploma.
As a courtesy to others, please silence all devices. Photography and recording of any kind is strictly
prohibited. Please do not leave the hall during musical selections. Thank you.*

Artist Profile

Vitaly Starikov, *piano*

Russian/Israeli pianist Vitaly Starikov has found distinction with “raw, deeply felt, and powerful” (*La Scena*) performances, while having an unassuming onstage presence and a “willingness less to play at the audience than to draw [them] into musical intimacies” (*Dallas Morning News*). His bold approach won him silver at the 2025 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and the admiration of fans around the globe. Vitaly’s perspective on music is manifested in his repertoire: he presents music that reflects not only tradition, but also contemporary life, striving to offer new perspectives on familiar music and introduce lesser-known pieces to wider audiences. His Cliburn performance of Bartók’s Second Piano Concerto electrified the room, with a *La Scena* reviewer noting that “he understood this music, and gave an impactful, lively, and gripping interpretation on all levels: emotionally, architecturally, and in terms of his sound palette.”

Recital and chamber music appearances have taken him around the world, notably to Austria, Australia, Slovakia, Israel, Cyprus, Italy, France, Belgium, and Malaysia, with highlights including Sydney Opera House, Queen Elisabeth Hall, and the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory. He has performed with the Antwerp and Belgian National Orchestras, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Belarusian State Symphony Orchestra, and St. Petersburg Symphony, and toured with the Orchestre national de Metz Grand Est. This inaugural Cliburn season

takes him to the Bravo! Vail and Sunriver Music Festivals; Colorado Springs Philharmonic, and Pacific, Topeka, and Springfield Symphony Orchestras, and in recitals throughout the United States.

Born into a family of musicians, Vitaly’s journey started when his parents enrolled him to sing in a children’s music group at age 3, and he went on to Ural Musical School for Gifted Children in his native Yekaterinburg at 7. He made his concerto debut at age 10 with the Ural State Russian Folk Orchestra, and his recital debut three years later, in the small hall of the Ural Special Music School. It was at 14 that he committed his life to music. His “dream came true” when he began studying with Vera Gornost ayeva, one of the world’s most venerated teachers, at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory. He went on to earn his bachelor’s degree at the Conservatory and then his master’s degree, under the tutelage of Eliso Virsaladze. He’s now at the Yale School of Music, pursuing an artist diploma under Boris Berman.

More Music Awaits!

Thank you for joining us — we'd love to have you back! If you liked today's concert, here are a few more performances we think you'll enjoy:

FEB 8 **Ole Akahoshi, cello & Wei-Yi Yang, piano**

Faculty Artist Series

3:00 p.m. | Morse Recital Hall

Free admission

FEB 10 **Parker Quartet with Paul Watkins, cello**

Oneppo Chamber Music Series

7:30 p.m. | Morse Recital Hall

Tickets start at \$31, Faculty/Staff start at \$23, Students start at \$14

FEB 25 **Robert Blocker**

Horowitz Piano Series

7:30 p.m. | Morse Recital Hall

Tickets start at \$17, Yale faculty/staff start at \$12, students start at \$8

MAR 25 **Boris Berman**

Horowitz Piano Series

7:30 p.m. | Morse Recital Hall

Tickets start at \$17, Yale faculty/staff start at \$12, students start at \$8

YALE SCHOOL OF MUSIC BOX OFFICE

Sprague Memorial Hall, 470 College Street, New Haven, CT 06511

203 432-4158 | music.yale.edu/events

wshu | Public Radio 91.1FM | wshu.org | 89.9FM

Stay informed, inspired and endlessly curious with our thought-provoking content.

WSHU 91.1 FM is the media sponsor of the Yale School of Music

Connect with us:



[yale.music](https://www.instagram.com/yale.music)



[yalemusic](https://www.facebook.com/yalemusic)



[YaleSchoolofMusicOfficial](https://www.youtube.com/YaleSchoolofMusicOfficial)

See our full calendar:



If you do not intend to save your program, please recycle it in the baskets at the exit doors.