

Anne Shih was born in Edmonton, Alberta as the eldest of three sisters who all became internationally renowned classical musicians. Anne began playing the violin at the age of five, began formal lessons at seven, gave her recital debut in Vancouver at eleven and made her debut with the Calgary Philharmonic at twelve. Equally prodigious as a pianist, Anne started studying this instrument at the age of ten and 18 months later was awarded a top prize in piano from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Canada. By the age of 17, Shih had won prizes at many of the important national competitions, on both instruments. She was also awarded the Salzburg Mozarteumspreis.

Mentored by the legendary Josef Gingold at Indiana University from 1986-91, Anne Shih became Gingold's last teaching assistant at the age of 21. She was recipient of the university's 1988 International Student Academic Achievement Award for outstanding scholastic performance and received her BM and her MM with highest honours. She has also worked with, assisted and performed with Denes Zsigmondy in Seattle, USA as well as in Germany, Italy, Hungary and Austria.

Anne's solo and chamber music performances as a violinist, violist and pianist have taken her to concert halls across North America, Europe and Asia. Her chamber music partners have included Julianne Banse, Giacomo Battarino, Julius Berger, Roger Chase, Lluís Claret, Jose Gallardo, Josef Gingold, Oliver Kern, Oleg Krysa, Robert McDonald, Hartmut Rohde, Guido Schiefen, Connie Shih, Andor Toth, Tilmann Wick, Sung Won Yang, Denes Zsigmondy, and the Borealis Quartet. A special highlight was Shih's performance of Schubert's Trout Quintet at London's Wigmore Hall, with colleagues Raphael Wallfisch, Ruth Killius of the Zehetmair Quartet and sister Patricia Shih (leader of the Borealis Quartet). This remarkable tour de force led to an immediate reinvitation to play the complete Grieg violin sonatas at the Wigmore with pianist Connie Shih later that year. The international press have hailed her as "Brilliant and Virtuoso", "Germany's next Superstar", "Virtuoso and Spiritual" and "Phenomenal" (*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* and *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, Germany).



Festival collaborations as interpreter and lecturer have included the Casalmaggiore International Festival, the Auer Music Festival, the Algonquin Music Festival, Kincardine Festival, the Holzhausen Musiktage, Musik der Welt in Pforzheim, the Euro Arts Festival, Salzburg Summer Festival, Eckelshausener Musiktage and the International Beethovenfest in Bonn.

Highly sought after as a pedagogue, Anne Shih lectures in numerous masterclasses throughout North America, Europe and Asia – including China, Korea and Taiwan – and is frequently asked internationally for consultation via Skype. In 1991 (at the age of 22), Anne was appointed visiting professor at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, later becoming member of Faculty and Chairperson of the String Department at the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music. In 1997, Shih was appointed one of the youngest ever tenured Full Professor of Violin in Germany at Hochschule für Musik Mainz, a position she still holds today together with serving as Head of the Strings Department. Several of her students have won top international prizes, such as the

Yfrah Neaman, Marschner, Spivakov and Yankelevich International Competitions. Many of her students now hold leading positions in orchestras throughout Europe, North America and Asia, including the Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra Moscow, Goeteborg Symphoniker, SWR Sinfonie Orchester Stuttgart, Philharmonia Opolska, Suwon Philharmonic, Colorado Symphony, Fort Wayne Philharmonic etc. Anne has also served as a jury member at Canadian and international competitions.

Shih is presently Artistic Director of the Mainzer Virtuosi, a youth ensemble comprising thirteen Canadian and European musicians and rapidly garnering international attention due to their fascinating performances and clever programming. Mainzer Virtuosi perform at leading halls in Europe such as Cadogan Hall in London, the Kurhaus in Wiesbaden, Casalmaggiore Festival and St. John's Smith Square. They have recorded two CDs to date – one under the Sheva label.

Highlights in 2016 include concerts as well as exchange educational programmes in China and Canada in addition to performances in Europe. Before taking up duty with Mainzer Virtuosi, Shih was Artistic Director of the Wisconsin Virtuosi, which she co-founded in 1994 as well as Director and Conductor of the ensemble International Strings. She also conducted the Hochschulorchestra in Mainz.

In addition, Anne Shih regularly presents the Mainzer Virtuosi as well as other young rising stars in concerts in the UK, and elsewhere in Europe. In 2003, Shih co-founded Norfolk Concerts, serving as Artistic Director from 2003 - 2013. From 2010, she took over as Artistic Director of the Casalmaggiore International Festival, largely helping to broaden the Festival's horizons and garnering loyal audience, alumni and reputation across the globe.

From 2010 - 2013, she was Artistic Director of Ming Connection Mainz e.V. She has now added another music festival with more emphasis on education in Germany, Musiktage am Rhein. Shih also serves as Deputy Chairwoman of the German China Friendship Society.

Anne Shih plays on a Giuseppe filius Andrae Guarnerius of 1711.