

Maria Parfonova is a Ukrainian pianist living in Amsterdam. She started to play piano at the age of 6 and began her music studies at the Kiev Children's Music School No. 35. In 2017, Maria got accepted at Kyiv State Music Lyceum (KSML), one of the leading music educational institutions in Ukraine (Piano Department, class of Tatiana Abayeva), from which she graduated with honors in 2022.

In Ukraine, Maria became a laureate and a prize winner of numerous competitions, including *Puhalski competition* (III prize), «*Christmas miniatures*» (I prize), *Tchaikovsky Festival Ukraine 2019* (I prize). In 2017, she performed at the National Philharmonic and received a scholarship awarded to exceptional young Ukrainian musicians. In 2021, Maria took part in a Chamber music Competition dedicated to 125th anniversary of prominent Ukrainian composer Victor Kosenko (I prize). In the same year she was preparing Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the KSML orchestra, which was scheduled to be performed at the Kyiv Philharmony in April of 2022 (but due to the outbreak of Russian aggression against Ukraine it did not take place).

Because of Russian invasion, in March 2022 Maria had to flee Ukraine for the Netherlands, where she got accepted at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam in the class of Professor Naum Grubert. In the Netherlands Maria participated in benefit concerts for Ukraine in the Hague, Amsterdam, Delden, Baarn, and Oranjewoud together with Tatiana Abayeva, Boris Fedorov, and Anna Fedorova. In May of 2022 and 2023, she took part in the Stift International Music Festival. In 2024, she participated in Concert aan Zee series in Muiderberg and gave solo recitals for the *Ontsnapte Klanken* Festival in Amsterdam and Amnesty Exhibition in Gouda (Garensponnerij).

In 2025, Maria performed with violinist Daniils Cirics at the Grachtenfestival in Amsterdam and performed during a study session in the Groote Zaal of the Concertgebouw. As a professional duo, they have given chamber music recitals in Haarlem, Schiedam, Breda, Amsterdam, and Den Haag.

Maria is currently in her fourth year of Bachelor studies at the Amsterdam Conservatory. She has taken lessons and masterclasses with renowned pianists such as Willem Brons, Mikhail Voskresensky, Norma Fisher, Anna Fedorova, Boris Fedorov, Marianna Shirinyan, and Jean-Claude Vanden Eynden. Since 2023, Maria has been a collaborative piano teacher at the Amsterdam Piano Academy and has broad experience working with both children and adults. In 2024, she completed a one-year course on methodology of teaching at the Amsterdam Conservatory and was described as a passionate, informative and inspiring teacher, who has a unique approach for each student.