**Sophie Min Biography**

Enquiry: sophieminmusic@gmail.com

Link to: *Bandcamp, Festivals*

**Background**

Sophie grew up in South Korea and began learning classical piano at age 3. She actively engaged with choir ensembles and contemporary gospel music and hymns in church bands, conducting and creating charts when she was young. She went to Seoul Institute of The Arts and majored in Applied Music to pursue a career. She moved to Australia with her family in 2010 and graduated from the Queensland Conservatorium, studying under Isaac Hurren, Steve Newcomb, Ken Stubbs, Yitzhak Yedid, and John Hoffman.

**Albums/Projects**

Her debut album [*Thanks for the Hands*](https://sophiemin.bandcamp.com/album/thanks-for-the-hands), features the guitarist James Sherlock with all originals over the years. The music captures a delicate sense of beauty, lyrical interaction and the exciting liveliness of the two musicians. It was released and launched successfully with a sold-out show at Jazz Music Institute, and at the Jazzlab, where double-billed with pianist Andrea Keller, and that show was described by [the 2017 Melbourne Women's International Jazz Festival](https://www.mwijf.org/new-index-1#/10-dec-andrea-keller/) as “Awesome opener for the last night of the festival. Chordal heaven!"

In 2018, she proudly presented a solo performance at BEMAC for [the 2018 Brisbane International Jazz Festival](https://www.bijf.com.au/2018-program/2018/5/2/a-double-bill-with-zac-hurren-band-and-sophie-min), which featured International musicians such as Gretchen Parlato and KNOWER in the same year, with virtuoso pianist Tigran Hamasyan performing the previous year. [*Solo Vol.1*](https://sophiemin.bandcamp.com/album/solo-vol-1) is an all-improvised solo piano album, that provides jazz approaches in various concepts. The recording was a genuine invitation from Lynette Irwin, suggesting a one-take improvised session at Brisbane Multicultural Arts Centre in 2018, as part of Lynette Irwin’s side project, which involved her collections of solo improvisations by many other Australian pianists. [*Open*](https://sophiemin.bandcamp.com/album/open)recorded in the same year, which is a home studio recording with bassist Helen Svoboda and drummer Timothy Green. An hour-long improvised session was guided by the following aesthetic: ‘the more clearly one hears the room, the more pure the energy is that contours the music’.

In 2019, [*Fine Gnaw*](https://shamin.bandcamp.com/album/fine-gnaw) was released by SHAMIN, her duo project with drummer Benjamin Shannon. This experimental group is a strong force for her to develop unconventional rhythms and unique harmonic challenges, and the band’s highlights include the 2022 Wangaratta Jazz Festival, the 2022 Sydney International Women’s Jazz Festival, and being a finalist of the 2023 Art Music Award in Improvised Music Category.

In 2020, she released her 11-piece orchestra album *[Bellwether](https://sophiemin.bandcamp.com/album/bellwether),* which depicts her evolving body of compositional and performative output, drawn from the influences of big band, contemporary jazz, minimalism, and classical chamber music. Saxophonist Paul Cutlan describes “Her music beautifully integrates improvised and composed elements across jazz, electronic, and classical genres. Sophie’s ability to inspire top Brisbane improvisers to collaborate on her work highlights her creative leadership and talent for coordinating and leading large ensembles.”

*[Your Wings](https://sophiemin.bandcamp.com/album/your-wings)* is a 7-piece ensemble album, that was recorded in 2020 during the COVID-19 Lockdown and includes an assembled improvised choreographies, described by Tom O’Halloran as “A creative component full of life; open and generous music that breathes, is spontaneous with playful exploration, well-orchestrated, expertly recorded, and achieves a sense of community and collaborative performance sought during the research period.” [*Intertwined Trees*](https://sophiemin.bandcamp.com/album/intertwined-trees), a duo album with German saxophonist and flautist Heinrich von Klein, was recorded as a sideline of the 2022 Perth International Jazz Festival, reviewed by the UK Jazz Journal Andy Hamilton as “The combination of flute and piano recalls Bill Evans’s collaborations with Jeremy Steig and Herbie Mann.” This duo has booked down 10 official shows to launch their album in Austria and Germany in March 2025, and she’ll be leading several masterclasses alongside other European artists.

**Awards/Commissions/Recognitions**

In 2020, she was awarded an APRA-AMCOS Emerging Composer Mentorship, which enabled her to work with Barney McAll, leading to her commissioned work *Pomegranate Seeds*, which was performed by the all-woman ten-piece orchestra Pharos at the 2021 Sydney International Women’s Jazz Festival. Barney describes, “Sophie Min may seem unassuming but when she writes music, you witness a lion roar, and you hear and feel a very evolved spirit expressing deep knowledge, passion, and the mystery of our human condition.”

She was nominated as a finalist of the 2021 Australian Jazz Bell Awards for The Best Young Australian Artists.

In 2022, she was part of the Perth International Jazz Festival’s *We Made a Thing* project, whereby several Australian jazz composers were commissioned to write works for a nonet of Perth-based musicians to perform at the festival.

She was a finalist in 2022 for the Freedman Fellowship, which was nominated by trumpeter Scott Tinkler. She proposed a collaborative project called ‘Australians in The Korean War’, an album and film work that was designed to document the experiences of Australian veterans of the Korean war, soundtracking interviews with an original score.

She is a part of the Artist in Residence on ABC Jazz for the year 2024, selecting music for a month, every day, and this program’s other Australian artists include Mat Jodrell, Angela Davis, Joe Lawry, and Ben Vanderwal.

**Tour**

In 2015, she was a member of the JM Jazz World Orchestra, an international big band made up of the world’s top young jazz musicians, which performed across Croatia, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, and The Netherlands, before returning to Grožnjan, Croatia. The same year she participated in the Centrum Jazz Port Townsend Workshop in Washington, USA, where the artistic director was the American bassist John Clayton.

In 2018, she was a resident at the Banff International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music, Canada, studying with Vijay Iyer, Tyshawn Sorey, Ok-Kyung Lee, and Jan Shyu.

Shorter version

**Preamble**

Sophie Min is a pianist and composer who blends jazz, experimental, and classical influences to create music that is both innovative and emotionally resonant. Her work is characterised by a deep commitment to exploring the human condition through sophisticated compositions and improvisations. As a visionary artist, Sophie strives to inspire and lead collaborative projects that push the boundaries of contemporary jazz.

**Biography**

Sophie Min grew up in South Korea and began learning classical piano at the age of 3. She actively participated in choir ensembles and contemporary gospel music in church bands, where she conducted and created charts from a young age. After majoring in Applied Music at Seoul Institute of The Arts, she moved to Australia in 2010, where she graduated from the Queensland Conservatorium, studying under renowned musicians like Isaac Hurren, Steve Newcomb, John Hoffman, and Yitzhak Yedid.

Her debut album, [*Thanks for the Hands*](https://sophiemin.bandcamp.com/album/thanks-for-the-hands), featuring guitarist James Sherlock, was praised for its delicate beauty and lyrical interaction, with a successful launch at Jazz Music Institute and Jazzlab. In 2018, she presented a solo performance at the Brisbane International Jazz Festival, followed by the release of [*Solo Vol.1*](https://sophiemin.bandcamp.com/album/solo-vol-1), an all-improvised piano album. Her collaborative project [*Open*](https://sophiemin.bandcamp.com/album/open) with bassist Helen Svoboda and drummer Timothy Green further showcased her innovative approach to improvisation.

In 2019, she released [*Fine Gnaw*](https://shamin.bandcamp.com/album/fine-gnaw) with her duo project SHAMIN, which was highlighted at several major festivals, including the 2022 Wangaratta Jazz Festival. In 2020, Sophie released the 11-piece orchestra album [*Bellwether*](https://sophiemin.bandcamp.com/album/bellwether), a significant work blending big band, contemporary jazz, minimalism, and classical chamber music. This was followed by [*Your Wings*](https://sophiemin.bandcamp.com/album/your-wings), a 7-piece ensemble album recorded during the COVID-19 lockdown, and [*Intertwined Trees*](https://sophiemin.bandcamp.com/album/intertwined-trees), a duo album with German saxophonist Heinrich von Klein.

Sophie has been recognised with numerous awards and nominations, including an APRA-AMCOS Emerging Composer Mentorship in 2020, which led to her commissioned work *Pomegranate Seeds*, performed by Pharos at the 2021 Sydney International Women’s Jazz Festival. She has also been a finalist for the 2021 Australian Jazz Bell Awards and the 2022 Freedman Fellowship. Sophie’s residency on ABC Jazz in 2024 will see her curating music daily, alongside other notable Australian artists.

Her International experience includes being a member of the JM Jazz World Orchestra in 2015 and participating in the Banff International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music in 2018, studying with Vijay Iyer and Tyshawn Sorey.

Sophie Min continues to push the boundaries of contemporary music with her innovative compositions and improvisations, committed to creating music that deeply resonates with audiences worldwide.