

PIANO BATTLE

THE BLACK AND THE WHITE ARE READY TO FIGHT!

Whether or not they are friends in real life, mercy is the last thing on their mind when fighting on stage. Winning the audience's heart is the only thing that counts!

The brainchild of internationally acclaimed pianists Andreas Kern and Paul Cibis, the PIANO BATTLE sees the duo go head-to-head on stage, charming and enchanting the audience with a variety of classical pieces. The show is divided into several rounds, each featuring a certain musical style. The two artists, with distinctly different performance techniques, will even go so far as to improvise on the tunes you request.

YOU ARE THE JUDGE

A competition wouldn't be a competition without a jury and here, YOU will be the judge! All members of the audience are invited to vote on the pianists' performances and will eventually crown the winner. And this might not be the limit of your participation... Part serious classical recital, part tongue-in-cheek performance by two classy pianists, the PIANO BATTLE is a unique concert that pleases both the ear and the eye.

WORLD WIDE

Originally created for the Hong Kong City Festival, PIANO BATTLE has been performed for sold-out audiences in Europe, the United States and Asia – including the Shanghai Oriental Arts Center, Seoul Arts Center and an open air spectacle before 6,000 fans in Taiwan. The show has also been well-received in the pianists' home country where Andreas Kern and Paul Cibis have performed for enthusiastic audiences in concert halls and at festivals all over Germany – including the Beethovenfest Bonn, the Rheingau Musik Festival, the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, the Prinzregententheater Munich and the Philharmonie Berlin.

In 2018, PIANO BATTLE tours again the US for 3 weeks, and spends another 3 weeks in more than 10 cities in China, and two weeks in South Korea. They play further concerts in Germany, including the Rheingau Musik Festival, Bulgaria, Taiwan and Israel.

THE PIANISTS

Andreas Kern

Born in South Africa, Andreas Kern studied piano in Cologne and Berlin with Günter Ludwig and Pascal Devoyon. As a soloist and chamber musician, he has extensive experience in Europe, Canada, South Africa, Hong Kong, China, Japan, India and South Africa.

Keen to present classical music in unconventional ways, Andreas has developed concert projects and formats that often feature unorthodox venues, or whereby musicians collaborate with artists in other fields, such as theatre and dance. Such performances have drawn a much wider and younger audience than traditional classical concerts.

He has created the critically acclaimed “arte lounge” for the French-German TV channel Arte. As a co-host, he has performed with musicians including Mischa Maisky, Renaud Capuçon, Sol Gabetta, Sarah Chang, Vadim Repin, Nils Mönkemeyer, Elina Garanca and Jörg Widmann. Andreas was also architect of the Piano City Berlin Festival 2010, which featured more than 100 piano performances held in Berlin within one weekend. Since then, Piano City has branched out to other cities such as Milan, Naples and Rome.

Paul Cibis

Educated in Hanover, Berlin and London, Paul Cibis has performed on five continents and established an international presence. He has been invited to international festivals in the UK, Germany, South Africa, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Australia and New Zealand and appeared in the electronic media around the world, including the BBC, WDR, 3Sat, ORB, HR, RTHK and CCTV.

Paul has released a few albums, including a collection of French mélodies and piano works by Berlioz, Fauré and Debussy, in collaboration with German mezzo-soprano Barbara Senator. His latest album features a collection of solo pieces by Taiwanese composer Kai-nan Huang.

Paul has also been involved in various film projects. He penned the music scores for several short films, and was the initiator and music supervisor of the international award-winning documentary PIANOMANIA.

A committed pedagogue, Paul has taught at Trinity College of Music in London, and frequently gives master classes in Germany, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea.