

# Biography of Violinist Zhangbo Chen

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In the grand, often too serious world of classical music, Zhangbo Chen strikes a chord that's refreshingly different. Picture this: a young boy, barely tall enough to see over a piano, decides that those black and white keys are just too much trouble. Enter the violin, a sleek and straightforward alternative, or so young Chen thought at the tender age of five. This wasn't just a switch in instruments; it was the beginning of a lifelong dialogue with music, where notes turned into words, melodies into sentences, and performances into captivating stories. Chen's tale is one peppered with the colorful realities of a musician's life—the exhilarating highs, the inevitable lows, and everything in between, all set against the backdrop of his homeland, China, where his family serves as his rock, his anchor in the stormy seas of the music world. And when the violin bow is down, Chen is likely to be found either lost in the world of jazz trumpet or perhaps even on the pitch of a football match, showcasing his range not just in music but in life.

Born in 2004, Mr. Chen already possessed a rather unique understanding of music. At the age of ten he enrolled in one of the top conservatories in China and after nearly seven years of study with violin pedagogues Prof. Nan Xie, Tao Yan, and Liang Chai, decided to move to Europe to continue his studies in 2021 where he is currently under the tutelage of Professor Eva-Christina Schönweiß at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler. Chen receives a great rush of inspiration from lessons with his longtime mentors and musical idols, Professor Igor Malinovsky and Vineta Sareika. During his study in China, Berlin and abroad, he also had the honor of studying master classes with Zakhar Bron, Maxim Vengrov, Goto Midori, Vadim Repin and Ning Feng.

First prize winner of the 2019 Tchaikovsky Junior Competition and prize holder of numerous other competitions, Zhangbo Chen has made appearances at the Konzerthaus Berlin, Philharmonie Berlin Kammermusiksaal, Berliner Dom, Köln Dom, Vienna Konzerthaus, Beijing Konzerthaus, and Shenzhen Konzerthaus. In the realm of chamber music, he's not just playing; he's practically rewriting the script, studying various styles in Berlin and forming a dynamic duo with guitarist Qianzheng Wang, making waves all the way back in China.

Off stage, Chen trades his violin bow for a camera, capturing landscapes and faces with the same passion and precision he applies to his music. Whether it's a stunning vista or an insightful portrait, Chen's photography, much like his music, tells stories that words alone cannot.

In essence, Zhangbo Chen isn't just a violinist. He's a storyteller, a humorist, a photographer, and, let's not forget, a football fan and jazz enthusiast. In the often stiff-collared world of classical music, he plays a refreshing tune, one that's as much about the joy and humor of life as it is about the notes on the page.

Zhangbo Chen currently performs on a Nicolo Gagliano violin from 1750.