



# YOUNEE

## Pioneer of “Free Classic & Jazz”

### ARTIST INTRODUCTION

Younee is a pianist, composer, and singer-songwriter whose fearless creativity and genre-defying artistry have established her as one of the most innovative pianists. A classically trained virtuoso with extraordinary improvisational flair, she developed her signature style “**Free Classic & Jazz**”.

Celebrated in Korea as a pianist and composer, she later expanded her career internationally, performing across Europe and developing a performance language centered on real-time musical creation and audience interaction.

### PERFORMANCE STYLE

UNWRITTEN. UNTAMED. UNFORGETTABLE

- At the core of her work stands the concert grand piano as a responsive partner in live creation
- Each concert becomes a living composition, improvised in real time with the audience as active collaborators
- Audience members frequently suggest themes, moods, melodies, or even specific pieces during the performance
- Younee spontaneously weaves those ideas into completely new music on the spot — creating pieces that have never existed before and will never be repeated exactly the same way
- She also sings and incorporates her voice into the performance, adding another expressive layer to her concerts
- This turns every concert into a unique, unrepeatable musical dialogue where the boundary between performer and audience disappears

And she wanted more — more freedom, more risk, more authenticity. Today, she steps onto the stage with no fixed programme, no safety net, and no way back. Because for her, every concert is an adventure — a single word from the audience is enough: a feeling, an image, a spontaneous impulse. In that moment, music is born that has never existed before and will never exist again, unfolding live, unfiltered, and fearless.

## WHAT SETS YOUNEE APART

What sets Younee apart is her ability to transform the concert hall into a living musical laboratory. Blending classical precision with the freedom of jazz, she creates spontaneous performances shaped by the audience, the acoustics of the venue, and the unique character of the piano in that moment. Every concert develops differently — fresh, unpredictable, and deeply responsive to its environment.

No concert is ever the same. No improvisation is ever repeated. Every performance becomes a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

## ALBUMS & CAREER IN GERMANY

- In recent years, Younee has captivated audiences across Europe, culminating in her 2024 double album **Improvisations Live In Germany**, documenting her most compelling moments from 2017 to 2022.

- This unique spirit has been captured on her album “Improvisations Live in Germany” — no tricks, no playback, no post-production. Just Younee, her Steinway, and the untamed power of improvisation. Every note is a risk, every chord a leap into the unknown, and that’s exactly where her magic lies.

- Her earlier piano albums include **Jugendstil** (2014), reimagining classical melodies through improvisation, and **My Piano** (2016), featuring original works.

- Both albums reached No. 1 on the German Classical, Jazz, and Crossover charts, solidifying her reputation.

## MAJOR PERFORMANCES

- She has performed at leading venues and festivals including the Elbphilharmonie, Leverkusener Jazztage (broadcasted WDR Jazzline), Kissinger Sommer, Beethoven Festival, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, Jazzopen Stuttgart, Dresden Jazztage, Woman in Jazz Festival, Steinway SpirioCast Hamburg and more, engaging international audiences through her distinctive sound.

You can call it jazz. You can call it classical. You can call it free classic. Or simply pure inspiration — one thing is certain: Younee cannot be put into any box.

She is now on tour. The album “Improvisations Live in Germany” is available everywhere.

## BACKGROUND & KOREAN PERIOD

- Beginning piano at age five, Younee pursued classical studies at Yonsei University in Seoul and became one of the few international pianists fluent in both classical and jazz improvisation.

- A celebrated artist in South Korea, she released two pop albums under the name Key’s Piano, composed for numerous artists, and wrote the television drama hit Just One Person.

- She performed a four-hands piano duet with jazz legend Bob James.

## UK PERIOD

- In London, she released the jazz/pop crossover vocal album True To You, whose single Home To You ranked in the U.S. Hot 100 Radio Chart.
- She toured extensively across the UK, performing at iconic venues such as Pizza Express Jazz Club Soho, 606 Club, Vortex, The Stables, 100 Club, and Oxford University.
- She produced the album True To You with renowned producer and guitarist Richard Niles, and collaborated with jazz greats including Gary Husband, Nigel Hitchcock, Derek Watkins, and Richard Cottle.

## MEDIA APPEARANCES

- UK: BBC Jazz Line-Up (Steinway Festival at Pizza Express Jazz Club live broadcast and guest appearance), BBC Radio Woman's Hour, BBC Sue Marchant Show, Jazz FM, Cambridge Radio, BBC Jazz Record Requests
- Germany: ZDF Morgenmagazin, WDR Jazz Line (Leverkusener Jazztage Live), BR Abendschau, Frankenschau, WDR West Art Live, BR Puzzle and many other TV and radio appearances
- Korea: KBS Yoon Do-hyun's Love Letter, EBS Documentary, SBS Music Wave, Mnet, MBC I Am a Singer and many other media appearances

## REVIEWS

- DownBeat: "...her formidable technique and florid sensibility..."
- Jazzthetik: "Younee is a musical phenomenon. It almost cannot be true. But it is."
- Süddeutsche Zeitung: "Having relocated to Germany, she began to pool all her abilities and passion in her playing: the classical technique and use of form, the melodic power of pop, as well as rhythmic finesse and improvisational freedom of jazz."
- Bonner Generalanzeiger: "A beautifully composed amalgam of classic, jazz, and pop, first-rate quality paired with feeling for moments and development, grand emotion, and naturalness."
- Nordwestradio (Dr. Wolfgang Rumpf): "Younee's CD My Piano is a Keith Jarrett update in classical music."
- NZZ (Neue Zürcher Zeitung): "Classic and jazz in perfect harmony."

**SHOWREEL :** <https://youtu.be/ueCL1aTCB9I>

**LIVE / EPK :** <https://youtu.be/EBEOwQxQklg>

**WEBSITE :** [www.younee.com](http://www.younee.com)

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