# 2026 Avery Fisher Prize

## Awarded to Pianist

## JEAN-YVES THIBAUDET

**New York, N.Y. – On the evening of Wednesday, November 4, 2026, it was announced that Jean-Yves Thibaudet has been awarded the 2026 Avery Fisher Prize in recognition of his extraordinary artistry and musical excellence, his distinctive contributions across genres, and his enduring ability to bring elegance, innovation, and broad cultural appeal to the world of classical music.** The announcement was made by Matías Tarnopolsky, President and CEO of the New York Philharmonic and a member of the Executive Committee of the Avery Fisher Artist Program, from the stage of David Geffen Hall, following Mr. Thibaudet's performance of Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2 with the New York Philharmonic, conducted by Rafael Payare.

As the 2026 Avery Fisher Prize recipient, Mr. Thibaudet receives a monetary award of $100,000. His name, engraved on the Avery Fisher Legacy Wall in David Geffen Hall, formerly Avery Fisher Hall, joins the 26 previous Prize recipients: Lynn Harrell, cellist, and Murray Perahia, pianist (1975); Yo-Yo Ma, cellist (1978); Emanuel Ax, pianist (1979); Richard Goode, pianist (1980); Horacio Gutiérrez, pianist (1982); Elmar Oliveira, violinist (1983); Richard Stoltzman, clarinetist (1986); André Watts, pianist (1988); Yefim Bronfman, pianist (1991); Garrick Ohlsson, pianist (1994); violinists Sarah Chang, Pamela Frank, and Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg (1999); double bassist Edgar Meyer and clarinetist David Shifrin (2000); violinist Midori (2001); Emerson String Quartet (2004); Joshua Bell, violinist (2007); Gil Shaham, violinist (2008); Kronos Quartet (2011); Jeremy Denk, pianist (2014); Claire Chase, flutist (2017); Leila Josefowicz, violinist (2018); Anthony McGill, clarinetist (2020); and Hilary Hahn, violinist (2024).

Jean-Yves Thibaudet was further honored at a celebratory post-concert dinner on the Grand Promenade of David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts by the Avery Fisher Artist Program's Executive Committee and its Chair, Deborah Borda, and the Fisher family. The ninth pianist to be awarded an Avery Fisher Prize and the fifth recipient to be announced from the stage of David Geffen Hall, Thibaudet now joins the Avery Fisher Artist Program's Recommendation Board.

Expressing what receiving this award means to him, Mr Thibaudet said: "The Avery Fisher Prize has long recognized artists who have devoted their lives to the highest standards of musicianship, and to be considered among them is deeply humbling. I've spent my career chasing the music wherever it leads: into the concert hall, onto the screen, into collaborations I never could have imagined as a young student in Lyon. Thank you so much to the Executive Committee, I am truly honored."

**The Avery Fisher Artist Program was established in 1974** by the late Avery Fisher as part of a major gift to Lincoln Center and serves as a monument to Mr. Fisher's philanthropy and love of music. The Program continues to provide recognition in two categories, the Prize and Career Grants, to outstanding instrumentalists who are U.S. citizens or permanent U.S. residents and, since 2004, also to small chamber ensembles. The Prize and Career Grant recipients are chosen by the Executive Committee of the Program: Emanuel Ax, pianist; Deborah Borda, Chair, Avery Fisher Artist Program, Founder of BordaArts, and President Emerita, New York Philharmonic; Mary Lou Falcone, M.L. Falcone, Public Relations; David Finckel and Wu Han, Artistic Directors, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center; Henry Fogel, Dean Emeritus and Distinguished Professor of the Arts, Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University; Anthony Fogg, Artistic Advisor, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Tanglewood; Pamela Frank, violinist; Jeremy Geffen, Executive and Artistic Director, Cal Performances; Ara Guzelimian, Special Advisor, The Juilliard School, and Senior Advisor, Marlboro Music Festival; Yo-Yo Ma, cellist; Anthony McGill, clarinetist; Dr. Mariko Silver, President and CEO, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts; Chad Smith, President and CEO, Boston Symphony Orchestra; Matías Tarnopolsky, Linda and Mitch Hart President and CEO, New York Philharmonic; and Shanta Thake, Ehrenkranz Chief Artistic Officer, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. Charles Avery Fisher, Nancy Fisher, and Philip Avery Kirschner are advisors to the Program. The Avery Fisher Artist Program is proud to be a constituent of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

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**ABOUT JEAN-YVES THIBAUDET**

Through elegant musicality and an insightful approach to contemporary and established repertoire, Jean-Yves Thibaudet has earned a reputation as one of the world's finest pianists. He is especially known for his diverse interests beyond the classical world, including numerous collaborations in film, fashion, and visual art. He is the first-ever Artist-in-Residence at the Colburn School, which awards several scholarships in his name.

This season, Thibaudet joins orchestras around the world in works including Gershwin's Concerto in F, Saint-Saëns's Piano Concerto No. 5, Ravel's Piano Concerto in G, and Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2. As Artist-in-Residence at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Thibaudet will play several concerts including a performance of Khachaturian's Piano Concerto, a trio program with violinist Lisa Batiashvili and cellist Gautier Capuçon, and, with Michael Feinstein, the acclaimed project *Two Pianos: Who Could Ask for Anything More?.* In addition to his orchestral dates, Thibaudet embarks on a fall trio tour with Batiashvili and Capuçon and a May tour with Itzhak Perlman and Friends. He also continues his multi-season focus on Debussy's *Préludes*, performing both books in their entirety at recitals around the world.

A prolific recording artist, Thibaudet has appeared on more than 70 albums and six film scores; his extensive catalog has received two Grammy nominations, two ECHO Awards, the Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik, the Diapason d'Or, the CHOC du Monde de la Musique, the Edison Prize, and *Gramophone* awards. Recent recordings include *Khachaturian*, a celebration of the Armenian composer including his Piano Concerto and several solo piano pieces; and *Gershwin Rhapsody*, a selection of Gershwin pieces recorded with Michael Feinstein, including four newly-discovered ones. He is the soloist on Dario Marianelli's recently reissued score for *Pride & Prejudice,* which was certified Gold by the RIAA in 2025; his playing can also be head on Marianelli's Academy Award-winning score for *Atonement,* Alexandre Desplat's scores for *The French Dispatch* and *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close,* and Aaron Zigman's score for *Wakefield*. Among numerous other awards and commendations, Thibaudet was named a Chevalier of the Ordre de la Légion d'honneur in 2025; President Emmanuel Macron personally presented him with the title. His concert wardrobe is designed by Dame Vivienne Westwood.

Jean-Yves Thibaudet: https://www.jeanyvesthibaudet.com/
Jean-Yves Thibaudet photos to download here.
Avery Fisher Artist Program: www.averyfisherartistprogram.org

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