

Helena Belgardt (Piano)

Helena Belgardt (born October 12, 2010) received her first piano lessons at the age of five with Friederike Hertel in Copenhagen. Since 2019, she has been studying with Felipe Valério at the Stuttgart Music School. Since the summer semester of 2026, she has additionally been a student in the network class of Prof. Matthias Kirschner at the Young Academy Rostock (YARO).

At the age of eight, she was admitted to the gifted students' program of the Musikgymnasium Stuttgart (Ebelu), and at ten to the pre-college program of the Stuttgart Music School. Since 2023, she has also been attending selected bachelor-level courses at the Stuttgart University of Music and Performing Arts (HMDK Stuttgart).

From 2016 to 2019, Helena studied violin with David Rohde in Copenhagen, and from 2019 to 2023 with Simone Riniker Meier in Stuttgart. Since 2024, however, she has focused exclusively on piano.

Helena is the recipient of numerous national and international competition awards.

In 2025, she won First Prize at the International Piano Competition Orbetello/Tuscany. Shortly before that, she was awarded Second Prize at the "Kleiner Schumann-Wettbewerb" in Zwickau, achieving the highest score in her age group.

In 2024, she won Second Prize at the 8th International Piano Competition "Merci, Maestro!" in Brussels, and in 2023, First Prize at the "Bach Competition for Young Piano Talents" in Köthen (Anhalt).

At the German national competition Jugend musiziert, Helena has won several First Prizes both as a soloist and in chamber music, as well as the Geschwister Sütterlin Special Prize and the Special Prize of the Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben. In 2021, she became the youngest First Prize winner at the national Jugend musiziert competition.

In 2024, she won two First Prizes with the highest possible score in the categories Piano/Violin Duo (AG 4) and Piano/Cello (AG 3) - the latter together with cellist Martin Helling, with whom she has formed a permanent duo since 2020. Since then, they have performed regularly in concert and participated in competitions together. At the Carl Bechstein Competition 2025, they won Second Prize as one of the youngest duos in the competition, the Special Prize for the best interpretation of a contemporary work (composed after 1970), and the Concert Prize of the Freunde und Förderer Schloss Britz association. Shortly before that, they were awarded First Prize and the jury distinction "Outstanding Achievement" at the 70th Youth Competition of the Baden-Württemberg Tonkünstlerverband. Together, they have repeatedly won First Prizes with the highest possible score at Jugend musiziert on the regional, state, and national levels. In addition, they received the WESPE Special Prize for the best interpretation of a contemporary work at the national competition in 2024.

Helena has also received awards at numerous other competitions, including:

- International Piano Competition Klavierpodium/Munich (multiple prizes and special awards)
- Clara Schumann Competition/Karlsruhe (highest distinction, Veronica Moritz Special Prize, and Piano Podium Special Prize)
- Clara Schumann Competition/Leipzig (Second Prize)
- Tonkünstler Competition/Stuttgart (2020: First Prize, piano solo; 2025: First Prize and “Outstanding Achievement” distinction in duo with cellist Martin Helling)
- 2023 International Competition FLAME/Paris
- 2019 Jacob Gade Competition/Vejle
- 2019 Berlingske Classical Music Competition/Copenhagen

She performs regularly in concert and has appeared, among others, at the Festeburg Concerts in Frankfurt am Main (piano trio), the Herbstliche Musiktage Bad Urach, the Sommerfestival der Remise Gautig, and the Bach Festival Days in Köthen (Anhalt). In 2024, she performed Camille Saint-Saëns’ *Carnival of the Animals* together with the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra and the Symphony Orchestra of the Stuttgart Music High School. She is currently preparing for a performance of Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Youth Symphony Orchestra of the Stuttgart Music School.

Helena descends from a branch of the Bach family originating from a cousin of Johann Sebastian Bach - Johann Ludwig Bach (1677–1731), known as the “Meininger Bach.”

In 2023, Helena received a scholarship from the Helmut Nanz Foundation, and in 2024 she was awarded a scholarship by the Ruth Ilse Lenz Foundation.

Helena has participated in masterclasses with Prof. Matthias Kirschnereit, Prof. Grigory Gruzman, Prof. Dimitri Alexeev, Prof. Sontraud Speidel, Prof. Angelika Merkle, Prof. Florian Wieck, Prof. Franziska Lee, Prof. Kolja Lessing, Prof. Manfred Aust, Alexander Sonderegger, Giuliano Adorno, and Joseph Paratore, as well as chamber music courses at the Stuttgart University of Music and Performing Arts with Prof. Martin Funda, Alexander and Eduard Sonderegger, Hugo Rannou, and Zoltan Paulich.

She is a member of Piano Podium Karlsruhe e. V. and was admitted in 2022 to the Young Talents Selection of the Pianists’ Club Munich.