

A prodigy flies solo

Pianist Abigail Sin, 14, launches European tour, leaving parents behind

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ACCLAIMED homegrown pianist Abigail Sin is no newbie when it comes to performing in faraway lands.

But for her first European tour, which began yesterday, the 14-year-old is travelling on her own – without her parents – for the first time.

Abigail, who was hailed as a “bona fide prodigy” by *Time* magazine in 2003, will play at major concert venues throughout Germany, Lithuania, Romania and Ukraine.

And Abigail’s parents had no reservations about letting their daughter fly her own flag on the other side of the world.

“Abigail’s definitely more mature than other kids her age,” said her mother, Sin Yang Hong. “She’s seen more places and met more people. I think she’s ready to be on her own.”

Right after her seven-concert European tour, which ends later this month, Abigail will jet off to the United States for several recitals.



COURTESY OF SIN YANG HONG

BEYOND BORDERS: Abigail will perform in Germany, Lithuania, Romania and Ukraine.

“This will be her first time flying across America on her own. Of course we’ve told the airline that she’s flying alone and she’ll be well taken care of.

“Abigail’s looking forward to her independence and her big adventure,” said Sin.

This year promises to be an exciting one for Abigail. Just two months ago, she performed for Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II at the Istana. And on the same night, she flew to Ukraine and won second prize in the Krainev competition.

In August, Abigail will start attending classes for her Bachelor in Music degree at the National University of Singapore’s Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music.

Abigail attended music appreciation classes when she was four, and was just nine when she performed her debut solo recital.

The former top student at the Methodist Girls’ School has since discontinued her secondary two studies to pursue music.

Despite her achievements, Abigail always finds time to do “normal” things, according to her mother.

“Abigail still goes out with her friends she has known since Primary One and drops by her school during recess time to say hi.”

SUDOKU plus

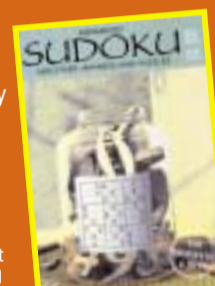
				7	4			
			8			5		
	3	2	1			6		
4						1	9	
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YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION:

1	2	5	9	3	6	7	4	8
7	4	3	2	5	8	6	1	9
9	6	8	4	7	1	3	2	5
8	3	9	1	2	5	4	6	7
5	7	4	8	6	3	1	9	2
2	1	6	7	9	4	5	8	3
6	5	1	3	8	9	2	7	4
4	9	7	5	1	2	8	3	6
3	8	2	6	4	7	9	5	1

HOW TO PLAY:

The rules are easy. Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.



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