

Profile

Personal information

Name Liu, Tom Maizi
Share different name No
Birthdate 03/28/2007

Contact details

Email, Phone liumaizi@gmail.com, +1.631-877-1886, Mobile, No other telephone
Permanent address 101 W End Ave Apt 24A New York, NY, 10023-6374, USA

Demographics

Gender Identity Male
Sex Male
Pronouns He/Him
Military status None

Language

English First Language, Speak, Read, Write
Mandarin First Language, Speak, Read, Write, Spoken at Home

Geography and nationality

Citizenship status U.S. citizen or U.S. national
Birthplace New York, New York, United States of America 15 years US

Common App fee waiver

Fee waiver requested No

Family

Household

Parents	Married
Home	Other, I live with my grandma since my parents work outside of the state.

Parent 1

Father

Name	Mr. Yongle Liu
Email, Phone	liuyongle@gmail.com, +1.631-805-9223, Mobile
Occupation	Business owner or proprietor, Self-Employed
Education	Graduate school Masters (2002), Dublin City University, Glasnevin, Dublin, Dublin, IRL, CEEB: 7562 Masters (2000), Chinese Academy of Sciences, China Bachelors (1997), Northwestern Polytechnical University, China

Parent 2

Mother

Name	Mrs. Beibei Zhang
Email, Phone	maggiezhang88@gmail.com, +1.631-961-6523, Mobile
Occupation	Business owner or proprietor, Self-Employed
Education	Graduated from college/university Bachelors (1999), Henan University, China

Siblings

Ethan Liu, Age 15

Education

Current or most recent secondary school

Collegiate School, 301 Freedom Pl S, New York, NY, USA, Independent, CEEB: 333565 (09/2020 - 05/2025)

Progression	No change in progression
Graduation Date	05/2025

Colleges & universities

Grades

Rank	na / 55
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Current or most recent year courses

First semester

ENG - Literature and Education - (HON)
LANG - Spanish - 12 - (C PREP)
MATH - Advanced Mathematics Seminar - (HON)
PHYS - Advanced Physics C - (AP)
SCI - Science and Engineering Research - (C PREP)
COMPSCI - Experienced Programming - (C PREP)
HIST - US-Mexico Borderlands - (HON)

Second semester

ENG - Literature and Education - (HON)
LANG - Spanish - 12 - (C PREP)
MATH - Advanced Mathematics Seminar - (HON)
PHYS - Advanced Physics C - (AP)
SCI - Science and Engineering Research - (C PREP)
COMPSCI - Experienced Programming - (C PREP)

Honors

First Prize Winner of Kaufmann International Piano Competition 2022, Senior Division	International	11
Winner of YoungArts National Competition 2023, Classical Music	National	11

First Prize Winner of Nordmann and Bachauer Piano Scholarship Competition, Juillard Pre-College Div	School	10
Contributing Author of Publication in Nature Photonics, Magnetically tunable polariton cavities	International	12
Scholarship Recipient of Chopin Foundation of the United States	National	9, 10, 11

Future plans

Scientific researcher, Doctorate

Testing

ACT

Composite	36	09/09/2023
English	36	09/09/2023
Math	36	09/09/2023
Reading	36	09/09/2023
Science	36	09/09/2023
Taken	1	
Planned	0	
ACT Plus Writing Test	No	

SAT tests

Evidence-based Reading and Writing	780	08/26/2023
Math	800	08/26/2023
Taken	1	
Planned	0	
SAT Essay	No	

Activities

Music: Instrumental

9, 10, 11, 12
School
25 hr/wk, 30 wk/yr
Continue

Piano & Chamber Music, The Juilliard School Pre-College Division
1st prize winner of Annual Piano Scholarship Competition. Twice chosen as the only Pre-College group for Juilliard's chamber music intensive.

Science/Math

12
Break
40 hr/wk, 8 wk/yr
Continue

Student Research Fellow, The Simons Summer Research Program at Stony Brook University
1 of 40 students selected nationally to conduct advanced research on infrared and terahertz physics. Published findings in collaboration with mentors.

Research

11, 12
Year
10 hr/wk, 50 wk/yr
Continue

Advanced Student Researcher, Collegiate school science and engineering research program
Selected from the entire grade for the program. Explored cryptography on Ethereum under the mentorship of Professor Hu of University of Missouri.

Community Service (Volunteer)

9, 10, 11, 12
School
2 hr/wk, 30 wk/yr
Continue

Youth leader & Performer, Concerts in Motion
Led weekly visits and performance for isolated seniors. Designed and executed a benefit concert, raised \$5k to expand community outreach.

Music: Instrumental

9, 10, 11
School
15 hr/wk, 8 wk/yr
Continue

Scholarship recipients, Chopin Foundation of the United States
Awarded annual \$1k three years consecutively. Secured yearly renewal by demonstrating consistent artistic growth.

Music: Instrumental

9, 10
Break
60 hr/wk, 4 wk/yr
Continue

Pianist & Chamber music, Aspen Music Festival and School
Selected among 650 musicians worldwide for a 4-week professional summer festival. Performed in featured chamber concerts at Harris Hall.

Music: Instrumental

11
Break
60 hr/wk, 4 wk/yr
Continue

Pianist, PianoTexas International Festival & Academy
Chosen as 1 of 25 participants internationally in the summer piano festival. Featured in solo recitals and masterclasses with acclaimed artists.

Computer/Technology

11
School
3 hr/wk, 10 wk/yr
Continue

Co-Founder & Web designer, Esperanza
Developed a March Madness Bracket website; raised 20,770\$ via the site; empowered 830 families to launch businesses and escape poverty.

Work (Paid)

12
Break
6 hr/wk, 8 wk/yr
Continue

Music tutor, Musart Music School
Coached 4 young pianists weekly; mentored students in technique, theory, and performance preparation. Earned \$1k.

Science/Math

9, 10, 11, 12
School
5 hr/wk, 30 wk/yr
Continue

Co-Captain & Member, Collegiate Math Club
Led school trips to math competitions; coordinating logistics and preparing teammates for regional events.

Writing

Personal essay

Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

"Ritardando!"

"You have to think while playing!"

I wish I had remembered my piano teacher's words as I stood in front of the most judgmental audience imaginable—young Juilliard prodigies and their mothers, eyes fixed on 10-year-old me during the Juilliard Pre-College Piano Performance Forum. Bowing quickly, I launched into the coda, my fingers flying across the keyboard in an unstoppable blur. "Come on, almost there," I urged myself. But the momentum was too fast; my hands were a runaway train. Then, boom, a memory slip derailed everything, and despite scrambling to recover, I stumbled across the finish line.

I wish I had remembered these words during my first high school in-class English essay. As the clock ticked, I rushed from line to line, "claim, evidence, explanation." "According to, this shows that, in conclusion." My sentences are stuck in a loop without end. Another runaway train—this time in words.

I wish I had remembered these same words during my time working in a physics lab. My hand darted between pencil, calculator, formula sheet, and test paper in a frenzy. I thought I just needed to follow the steps faster. But the first day in a nano-optics lab shattered that illusion. When a Ph.D. student asked me to optimize a design for an air tube, I was lost, unsure of what formula to use. I panicked, realizing this wasn't just about speed—it required careful thought.

At first, my teacher's advice—"Ritardando"—was simply a musical term, telling me to slow down a few measures of my piece. It took me years to understand that she was teaching me something much deeper: the importance of slowing down to think and understand. I had treated music like a race to the end; gradually, I began to rethink this approach. I started analyzing every ink mark on the sheet, reflecting on my role as a performer, observing the subtle cues of performance spaces. Eventually, I realized my job wasn't to impress anyone. I was merely the conduit between the soul of the composer and the emotions of the audience. My mission is to communicate the essence of the music, not just to complete the piece.

This change in mindset soon transformed not only my approach to music, but also to other areas of my life as well. In English class, I began looking beyond the mechanics of grammar. I noticed fascinating parallels between music and literature—both ways of expressing emotions beyond words. With an English teacher who also loved classical music, we collaborated on a project exploring the relationship between literature and music. Slowing down allows me to begin developing a personal framework to connect ideas across disciplines.

My most profound epiphany came when I confronted my struggles in science. Initially, I thought success in science was about following formulas and mastering calculations fast. But working on projects opened my eyes to the creative side of research, which required me to similarly take time

and appreciate the process unfolding in front of me. Designing experiments and solving problems required me to slow down, ask questions, and explore ideas in unexpected ways.

The lesson I learned from music resonated everywhere. Writing a great essay isn't just about following a formula - it's about expressing ideas with clarity. Science isn't just about calculation, but instead, an opportunity for curiosity, creativity, and persistence. And music wasn't a race; it was a conversation between composer, performer, and audience

As one Juilliard teacher said, "to become a better pianist is to become a better person." I believe that becoming a better person requires a love for learning, curiosity across disciplines, and the ability to slow down and think deeply. Whether playing Chopin's Torrent Etude or optimizing designs in a science lab, I've discovered that the key to mastering any field isn't speed—it's understanding.

Additional information

The Juilliard School Pre-College Program

- One of the youngest accepted into the piano program at age 9

Education progression

Details

Education progression details No change in progression

PREVIEW

Harvard University questions

General

Preferred start term	Fall 2025
Admission plan	Restrictive Early Action
Preferred residence	On Campus
Financial aid	No
Do you intend to submit supplementary materials?	Yes
Taken/Will Take SAT or ACT	Yes

Academics

Field of study 1	Music
Field of Study 2	Physics
Field of Study 3	Applied Mathematics
On a scale of 1 (absolutely certain) to 5 (very likely to change), how definite do you consider your academic plans to be?	3
On a scale of 1 (absolutely certain) to 5 (very likely to change), how definite do you consider your vocational plans to be?	3
On a scale of 1 (absolutely certain) to 5 (very likely to change), how definite are your extracurricular and/or athletic interests?	1
Are you applying for a program with the New England Conservatory?	Yes
Are you applying for a program with Berklee College of Music?	No

Activities

Activity 1	Orchestra
Activity 2	Community Service
Activity 3	Soccer
Intended level of participation (sports)	Club/Intramural/Recreational
Activity 4	Writing / Literary Magazine
Activity 5	Journalism

Contacts

Have you previously applied to Harvard?	No
How have you learned about Harvard?	Campus Visit, 03/2023
Additional contact	Virtual Event
Additional contact	College Counselor / Teacher
Contact Consent	Yes, I consent to be contacted by Harvard University at the mobile phone number provided below.
Phone Number	+1.631-877-1886

Family

Parent different address	Yes
Which parent has a different address	Parent 1, Parent 2
Parent 1 Address	153 Torrey Dr Newark, DE, 19702-2685, USA
Parent 2 Address	153 Torrey Dr Newark, DE, 19702-2685, USA
Is parent 1 living?	Yes
Parent 1 Occupation	Business owner or proprietor
Parent 1 Employment status	Self-Employed
Is parent 2 living?	Yes
Parent 2 Occupation	Business owner or proprietor
Parent 2 Employment status	Self-Employed
Number of siblings	1

Sibling 1 Education level

Some high/secondary school

Other Information

Have you ever been found responsible for a disciplinary violation at any educational institution? No

Have you ever been convicted of, or pled guilty or no contest to, any felony or misdemeanor? No

U.S. Military Veterans

U.S. Armed Forces No

Short Answers

Life experiences / contribute to Harvard

I got lost on my first day of kindergarten. At five years old, it was the most terrifying experience possible: I wandered into a 5th-grade classroom. Surrounded by questioning big kids, I couldn't explain myself – I didn't know a word of English. That moment marked the start of a long journey to find my own word. It was so much more than ESL classes until age 9 or the arduous process of finishing *The Secret Garden* with a Merriam Webster dictionary beside me. 12 years later, a newfound passion for literature led me to write a research paper connecting Beethoven's early sonatas to the idea of Bildungsroman. More than anything, this journey taught me how to express myself in the face of challenges and embrace uncertainty. At Harvard, I look forward to engaging with diverse perspectives and collaborating in challenging environments, all with my hard-earned power of words.

Intellectual discussion

"Let's play this passage slower," I said to my piano trio as we were rehearsing the first movement of Brahms Trio No. 1 for an upcoming performance in Alice Tully Hall. The violinist cued and we tried again, but the cellist stopped us: "Let's pick up the pace. We need to bring out the long phrases in the melody." I still felt we should slow down to emphasize each chord. Finally, I suggested we reach an impasse, with one focusing on drive and the other on restraint. I realized the solution wasn't about compromising but understanding our roles. As the pianist, I accompanied the strings' melody, so our task wasn't to align perfectly but to listen to each other. I suggested that I follow their phrasing, and they, in turn, respond to my chords. It worked!

From this, I learned that resolving disagreements requires recognizing and respecting different perspectives.

EC/employment/travel/family experiences

For the past four years, I have performed weekly with Concerts in Motion, a nonprofit that facilitates concerts for homebound seniors in New York City. I wanted, however, to delve deeper than simply volunteering, and decided last fall to organize a charity concert to raise funds for the organization. I quickly realized the challenges involved and took charge of coordinating behind the-scenes. I secured a venue by networking among personal connections, developed the concert's website by collaborating with the organization's team, and carefully curated a diverse lineup of performers. Fundraising was the final challenge, where I learned how to balance persistence and politeness when soliciting donations. The event was a success, breaking records for student-led fundraising in the organization's history. But most importantly, it redefined service for me. I learned that community service is much more than volunteering: it is about supporting important causes from the ground-up.

Education plans

I am looking forward to exploring the intersection of music, physics, and artificial intelligence at Harvard. Music, rooted in sound waves and resonance, embodies the principles of physics. I am intrigued by classes that Harvard offers such as "Engineering the Acoustical World" and "What Makes the Violin Sound Beautiful." The interdisciplinary emphasis in these classes, taught by professors in both the Music and Engineering and Applied Sciences departments, will enhance my understanding of these intertwined subjects. Similarly, the university's Music Lab and resources at Harvard SEAS will allow me to dive deeper into how technology and art converge. Inspired by projects like using AI to complete Schubert's Unfinished Symphony, I hope to collaborate with musicians and researchers to create new works that push the boundaries of artistic expression and reveal new dimensions of creativity.

Roommate intro

At first, I might seem like the typical "plays piano, loves science" kid, and yeah... guilty! But there's more to me than lab research and sonatas. On free days, my roommates will probably spot me out in the Yard kicking a soccer ball. I've been hooked on soccer since my travel team days in middle school, and I never miss a chance to jump into a pickup game. I've also been obsessed with plants ever since learning about photosynthesis in third grade. I love germinating seeds from kitchen scraps - so one might see an avocado pit sprouting in a glass on the windowsill or damp paper towel nurturing lemon seeds in our dorm. (Don't worry-I'll keep it neat!) Oh, and I'm always up for a new food adventure. I can't wait to explore every restaurant in Harvard Square - rumor has it there's an amazing hidden ramen spot nearby.

Affirmations

By submitting this application, I affirm my understanding of and agreement to the statements found here: <http://www.commonapp.org/affirmations>.