

Ailun Zheng began her piano study around the age of five. She is currently pursuing her doctoral study in Piano Performance and Literature at the Eastman School of Music under the guidance of Alexander Kobrin. Previously, she studied at the Shanghai Conservatory with Yun Sun and Zhe Tang, Interlochen Arts Academy with Thomas Lymenstull, and Bachelor's and Master's at Eastman with Nelita True and Alexander Kobrin.

Ailun won many awards during her youth in Shanghai, including first prize of the 4th Chinese Music International Competition in Japan and first prize in the 71st Steinway International Youth Piano Competition East China Division. After coming to study in the states, she won the Interlochen Arts Academy Concerto Competition twice in 2015 and 2016, and performed with the IAA Orchestra. She was the Michigan State winner of the MTNA Senior Piano Competition in 2014, and was selected as one of the finalists in the 8th New York International Piano Competition in 2016. During her study at Eastman, she won first prize in the Young Artist Division of the Millersville International Piano Competition in 2021, and in the following year, she won second prize and the best performance of a duo sonata in the PianoArts North American Competition, preceded and followed by residency arrangements, first prize at the Texas State International Piano Festival Concerto Competition, and was awarded the best semifinalist prize at the XII Darmstadt International Chopin Piano Competition in Germany. In 2023, she won third prize in the Young Artist Division of the Lancaster International Piano Competition.

Ailun has participated in many international festivals, including the 2013 Perugia Music Festival where she performed with the Ashdod Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai International Piano Festival & Institute, Bowdoin International Music Festival, the 2016 Gilmore Keyboard Festival, Art of Piano, Amalfi Coast Piano Festival, Valencia International Performance Academy, the 2021 Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Academy, and Chautauqua Institute. She has performed in masterclasses for Dang Thaisong, Fu Ts'ong, Eduardus Halim, Llyr Williams, Barry Snyder, Robert McDonald, Pavel Neressian, Piotr Paleczny, Ewa Pobołcka, Mikhail Voskresensky, among many others.

Besides playing the piano, Ailun has always been interested in exploring cross-disciplinary art collaborations and various types of visual arts, such as drawing, photography, and video editing.

She was also a semi-professional horseback rider who attended show-jumping competitions when she was in Shanghai. She believes that all of her interests and life experiences play their unique roles in refining her musicality and artistry as a whole.