

# 2009 Competition Winners Concert

June 12, 2009  
7:30 PM

Music Institute of Chicago, Evanston  
*Nichols Concert Hall*  
1490 Chicago Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201

The **Society of American Musicians**, a non-profit organization, was founded in 1914 with the intent of promoting the best interests of music in America, and maintaining the highest standards of musicianship. Through the competition, its awards, and performance opportunities, the Society offers assistance and encouragement to young musicians and promising artists.

The Society of American Musicians is an organization comprised of professional musicians, both performers and teachers. Although it is based in Chicago, our members reside in the Midwestern region, and have students that travel to Chicago annually to participate in the Society's prestigious competition.

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## Program

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- Elfentanz.....E. Jenkinsen (1843-1913)  
**Seri Lee, cello**
- Etude in Ab Major, Op.72, no.11.....Moritz Moszkowski (1854-1925)  
**Kimmy Siu, piano**
- Concerto in G Major, Op. 29 for flute and piano.....Carl Stamitz (1745-1801)  
I. Allegro  
**Allison Milligan, flute**  
**Tatyana Stepanova, piano**
- Tambourin Chinois.....Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962)  
**Rachel Hsu, violin**  
**Elaine Felder, piano**
- Five Bagatelles.....William Walton (1902-1983)  
I. Allegro  
**Adler Scheit, guitar**
- Nina.....Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-1736)  
**Nathan Walhout, cello**  
**Matt Gemmill, piano**
- Tzigane.....Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)  
**Michaela Wellems, violin**  
**Debbie Masloski, piano**
- Suite for Viola and Orchestra.....Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)  
II. Moto Perpetuo  
**Caitlin Adamson, viola**  
**Shirley Trissell, piano**
- Concerto for Violin Op. 13.....Samuel Barber (1910-1981)  
III. Presto in moto perpetuo  
**Tabitha Oh, violin**  
**Milana Pavchinskaya, piano**
- The Miller's Dance.....Manuel da Falla (1873-1943)  
**Alexander Gomez, guitar**
- Concerto for cello and orchestra, Op. 3.....Edward Elgar (1857-1934)  
II. Lento. Allegro Molto  
**Daniel Kaler, cello**  
**Tatyana Stepanova, piano**

## Intermission

- Prelude from Suite No. 6 in D major, BWV 1012.....J.S. Bach (1685-1750)  
**Leah Ferguson, viola**
- Sonata Op. 2 no.1 in f minor.....Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)  
IV. Prestissimo  
**Kevin Xu, piano**
- Caprice no.9.....Niccolo Paganini (1782-1840)  
**Jaimie Sachay, viola**
- The Round of the Goblins.....Antonio Bazzini (1818-1897)  
**Joshua Burca, violin**  
**Tatyana Stepanova, piano**
- Variations on one string .....Niccolo Paganini (1782-1840)  
on a theme "Moses" by Rossini  
**Sonia Mantell, cello**  
**Shirley Trissell, piano**
- Caprice in a minor.....Henryk Wieniawski (1835-1880)  
"It Ain't Necessarily So".....Gershwin arr. Heifetz (1901-1987)  
**Natsuki Kumagai, violin**  
**Michaela Wellems, violin**  
**Milana Pavchinskaya, piano**
- "Madamina il catalogo e questo".....W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)  
from *Don Giovanni*  
**Julian Cook, voice**  
**Danuta Berger, piano**
- La Campenella in b minor .....Franz Liszt (1811-1886)  
**Ryan Lee, piano**
- Concerto.....Aram Khatchaturian (1903-1978)  
III. Allegro Moderato  
**Ryan Zerna, flute**  
**Tatyana Stepanova, piano**

## 2009 Winners

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<b>CELLO</b>	Primary	1st Place ~ Seri Lee, <i>Student of Cecilia Ham</i> 2nd Place ~ Angela Lee, <i>Student of Gilda Barston</i>
	Junior	2nd Place ~ Nathan Walhout, <i>Student of J. Johannesen</i> HM ~ Josiah Yoo, <i>Student of Gilda Barston</i>
	Intermediate	1st Place ~ Daniel Kaler, <i>Student of Hans Jensen</i> 2nd Place ~ Garrett Chou, <i>Student of David Cunliffe</i> HM ~ Michelle Yeagley, <i>Student of Nazar Dzhuryn</i>
	Senior	1st Place ~ Sonia Mantell, <i>Student of Hans Jensen</i> 2nd Place ~ Lauren Peacock, <i>Student of Gilda Barston</i> HM ~ Julia Wen, <i>Student of Gilda Barston</i>
<b>FLUTE</b>	Junior	1st Place ~ Allison Milligan, <i>Student of Hideko Amano</i> 2nd Place ~ Rachael Cohen, <i>Student of Susan Levitan</i> HM ~ Miyuki Horii, <i>Student of Hideko Amano</i> HM ~ Kathren Chiodo, <i>Student of Hideko Amano</i>
	Intermediate	2nd Place ~ Emma Stewart, <i>Student of Hideko Amano</i> 2nd Place ~ Leena Park, <i>Student of Ryunghy Lee</i> HM ~ Sorcha Barr, <i>Student of Hideko Amano</i>
	Senior	1st Place ~ Ryan Zerna,, <i>Student of Hideko Amano</i> 2nd Place ~ Karen Gallant, <i>Student of Hideko Amano</i>
<b>GIUITAR</b>	Junior	1st Place ~ Alexander Gomez, <i>Student of J. Trowbridge</i> 2nd Place ~ Jason Lewis, <i>Student of Julia Miller</i> HM ~ Winston Michaelak, <i>Student of Mark Maxwell</i>
	Senior	1st Place ~ Adler Scheidt, <i>Student of Jesse Langen</i> 2nd Place ~ Paulina Mateja, <i>Student of C. Laughlin</i> 2nd Place ~ Louis Cucunato, <i>Student of Elina Chekan</i>
	Collegiate	1st Place ~ Chaconne Klaverenga, <i>Student of D. Azabagic &amp; A. Waller</i> 2nd Place ~ Jordan Knudson, <i>Student of Norman Ruiz</i> 2nd Place ~ Jordan Dodson, <i>Student of Clare Callahan</i> HM ~ Ivan Resendiz, <i>Student of Norman Ruiz</i>
<b>PIANO</b>	Primary	1st Place ~ Kimmy Siu, <i>Student of Brenda Huang</i> 2nd Place ~ Kathy Zhang, <i>Student of Svetlana Belsky</i> HM ~ Michelle Chen, <i>Student of Brenda Huang</i>
	Junior	1st Place ~ Pamela Lin, <i>Student of Sueanne Metz</i> 2nd Place ~ Ryan Jannak-Huang, <i>Student of B. Huang</i> HM ~ Susie Lee, <i>Student of Micah Yui</i> HM ~ Victoria Liu, <i>Student of Brenda Huang</i>
	Intermediate	1st Place ~ Kevin Xu, <i>Student of Carol Honigberg</i> 2nd Place ~ Alisa Kolot, <i>Student of Brenda Huang</i>
	Senior	1st Place ~ Ryan Lee, <i>Student of Sunghoon Mo</i> 2nd ~ Nathan Noh, <i>Student of Brenda Huang</i>

<b>VIOLA</b>	Junior	1st Place ~ Caitlin Adamson, <i>Student of D. Ruhstrat</i> 2nd Place ~ Carrie Jones, <i>Student of Rami Solomonow</i>
	Senior	1st Place ~ Leah Ferguson, <i>Student of Almita Vamos</i> 1st Place ~ Jaime Sachay, <i>Student of Desiree Ruhstrat</i> 2nd Place ~ Natalia Babziak, <i>Student of Roland Vamos</i>
<b>VIOLIN</b>	Primary	1st Place ~ Rachel Hsu, <i>Student of Desiree Ruh</i> 2nd Place ~ Chloe Lee, <i>Student of Desirée Ruhstrat</i>
	Junior	1st Place ~ Tabitha Oh, <i>Student of Desirée Ruhstrat</i> 2nd ~ Adé Williams, <i>Student of M. Dreher &amp; A. Vamos</i> HM ~ Emma Sandberg, <i>Student of Gabriel Bolkosky</i>
	Intermediate	1st Place ~ Joshua Burca, <i>Student of Cyrus Forough</i> 1st Place ~ Michaela Wellesms, <i>Student of M. Dreher</i>
	Senior	1st ~ Natsuki Kumagai, <i>Student of M. Dreher &amp; R. Vamos</i> 2nd Place ~ Julia Ghica, <i>Student of Guillaume Combet</i>
<b>VOICE</b>	Junior	1st Place ~ Julian Cook, <i>Student of Gaye Klopak</i> 2nd Place ~ Courtney Hickman, <i>Student of M. Areyzaga</i>
	Senior	2nd Place ~ Erica Koch, <i>Student of M. Areyzaga</i> 1st Place ~ Melissa M. Segarra, <i>Student of E. Monastero</i> 2nd Place ~ Elisa Diviak, <i>Student of Ann Williams</i> HM ~ Suzy Nowicki, <i>Student of Ann Williams</i>
<b>JULES M. LASER CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION</b>		1st ~ Aurelia Quartet, <i>Coached by Marko Dreher</i> Susie Koh, <i>violin</i> & Roland Vamos Laura Park, <i>violin</i> Arianna Smith, <i>viola</i> Allan Steele, <i>cello</i>
		1st ~ Constellation Trio, <i>Coached by M. Aznavoorian</i> Gallia Kastner, <i>violin</i> Daniel Kaler, <i>cello</i> Yoan Ganev, <i>piano</i>

## Performers

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**Caitlin Adamson** is fourteen and a scholarship student in the Academy Program of the Music Institute of Chicago. At six she began violin studies with Sarah Montzka at MIC and currently studies violin and viola with artist/faculty member Desiree Ruhstrat. She performs with the Junior Academy Strings, Vivace String Trio and MIC Philharmonic. She received a first on viola and honorable mention on violin in the 2009 Depaul Concerto Festival for Young Performers. She performed as a soloist with the Junior Academy Strings and the Oistrach Symphony Orchestra. At Haven Middle School in Evanston Caitlin enjoys performing in the orchestra, choir, and school musicals.

**Joshua Burca** is a 14-year-old home schooled student, who currently studies with Cyrus Forough at the Music Institute of Chicago's Academy program. His recent teachers include Roxanna Pavel-Goldstein, Elias Goldstein, and Julie Fischer, and he has performed in master classes with Mark Zinger, Rachel Barton-Pine, Mathias Tackas, and Bonnie Keyes. Most recently, he won first place at the Society of American Musicians Competition. In his spare time, Joshua likes to listen to music and write his own compositions.

**Julian Armand Cook**, who is 18 years old, was born in Chicago and attends Jones College Preparatory High School, where he is Student Council President, Concert Choir President, a member of the Christian Club, and is a private voice student of Mrs. Gaye Klopach. Knowing the deep value of the faith community, Julian attends True Believers Baptist Church, where he serves as a Sunday school and Youth Bible Study leader as well as an associate minister. Always looking to broaden his horizons, Julian has competed in a plethora of competitions and won, including the prestigious Classical Singer Chicago competition and National Association for Teachers of Singing competition, on both the regional and local levels. He was also recognized as a Level I Winner at NFAA YoungARTS week 2009. Recently, Julian was named as a Presidential Scholar in the Arts, the nation's highest honor that can be awarded a teen artist. Julian plans to pursue a collegiate education in pastoral ministry/theology, and musical performance. His goals include a fruitful career in opera music, as well as entering into full time ministry as a church pastor. In his spare time Julian enjoys being involved in his faith community, spending time with friends, reading, studying the bible, listening to various Christian music artist, and cooking. Julian is extremely thankful for those to which he owes his success: his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, mother, teacher Gaye Klopach, and very supportive family and friends.

Sixteen year old violist, **Leah Ferguson**, a sophomore at New Trier High School is currently a member of the Music Institute of Chicago's Academy program for gifted pre-college musicians where she studies privately with MIC artist faculty member Roland Vamos. Leah has spent summers studying viola and chamber music with Mark Jackobs of the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Cleveland Orchestra. She has attended summer programs: ENCORE School for Strings, Astona International Summer Music Academy in Switzerland, and the Rocky Mountain Conservatory. Leah was recently featured on the Chicago 98.7 WFMT

Radio show "Introductions" and has performed recitals on the Young Steinway Concert Series, in Owensboro, KY, and around the Chicago area. Leah's awards include honors in the finals of the 2009 National American String Teacher's Competition Solo Competition; semi-finalist in the 2009 Johansen International Competition for Young String Players; First Prize: 2008 Wendell Irish Viola Award for the North Central United States; 2008 North Suburban Symphony Concerto Competition; First Alternate in the 2008 Illinois MTNA Senior String Competition. Away from the viola, Leah's interests are languages, film, and opera.

**Rachel Shekinah Hsu**, age 8, is a second grade student at Romona Elementary School in Wilmette. She has learned violin for four years and currently studies with Desiree Ruhstrat at the Music Institute of Chicago. Rachel has won first-place awards in the 2008 Music Festival in Honor of Confucius and 2009 SAM Competition. She was also the winner at the 2009 DePaul Concerto Festival for Young Performers and was a soloist with the DePaul Symphony Orchestra. She has also been playing piano for three years under the tutelage of Sueanne Metz and has won many awards in piano competition. Her other interests include: singing, writing, drawing, reading, science and math. She has received first-place awards at the Music Festival in Honor of Confucius, the Illinois Music Association, the MACMO Piano Contest, CAMTA Piano Contest, Granquist Music Competition. Her performance has been broadcast live on WFMT radio station as a winner in Steinway Young Artist Competition 2008 & 2009.

Twelve year old **Alexander Gomez** is a 7th grade student at Gower Middle School in Burr Ridge, IL. A resident of Willowbrook, he has traveled to Chicago to study with Jennifer Trowbridge since age five. A multi-instrumentalist, Alex plays guitar, piano, clarinet, and alto and tenor saxophones. He was twice a prize winner in the Southwest Suburban Piano Competition and three times the winner of his school's Instrumental Solo Competition, performing alto saxophone. Alex's love of learning does not stop with music. This year, he was a state finalist for the National Geography Bee and won first place in the Hinsdale South High School Math Contest. He is also known for his sense of humor and penchant for arm wrestling.

**Daniel Kaler** is a fifth generation musician, who started playing the cello at the age of four under the guidance of Susan Moses at Indiana University School of Music and Donna Davis of Dallas, TX. After moving to Chicago in 2003, Daniel continued his studies with Gilda Barston at the Music Institute of Chicago. He is currently a student of Prof. Hans-Jorgen Jensen at the Junior Academy of the Music Institute of Chicago. Daniel has also studied piano with Emilio del Rosario. Awards include 1<sup>st</sup> prize at the Society of American Musicians Competition primary, junior, and intermediate divisions, appearance in NBC's *America's Got Talent* in, winner of the 2008 Music Institute of Chicago Concerto Competition and 2009 Depaul Concerto Festival, and 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the 2009 Jules M. Laser Chamber Music Competition as a member of Constellation Trio. In 2009, Daniel appeared as a soloist with the Junior Academy Orchestra at Ravinia and with the Oistrach Symphony Orchestra at De Paul Concert Hall. Daniel's hobbies include math and karate. He is currently a fifth grader at Avoca West Elementary School and lives with his family in Wilmette, IL.

**Natsuki Kumagai**, 18, recently graduated from James B. Conant High School. She started the violin at the age of three at Depaul University. Natsuki is a scholarship recipient and member of the Music Institute of Chicago's Academy program where she studies privately with Marko Dreher and Roland Vamos. She was concertmistress of the Music Academy Chamber Orchestra, and was a member of the 2008 Illinois Music Education Association High School All-State Honors Orchestra. She has won first prize in the Senior Division of Society of American Musicians Competition and in the Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition where soloed with the orchestra performing Saint-Saëns Concerto No.3. She has also received honorable mention in the Walgreens National Concerto Competition and the Sejong Music Competition. Recently she was chosen to perform alongside the Kavafian sisters in a performance of Mendelssohn's Octet. Natsuki also enjoys performing chamber music and was a member of the Dane Quartet, which formed in fall of 2008. The quartet has garnered such awards as the Bronze Medal in the Junior Division of the 2009 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and the Silver Medal at 2009 St. Paul String Quartet Competition. In its first season, the quartet performed on the *Stars of Tomorrow* concert series, the MIC's Opening Ceremony for its new Highland Park Campus, 98.7 WFMT Radio show "Introductions", and with renowned violinist Rachel Barton Pine. Natsuki has performed in master classes with Pamela Frank, David Bowlin, Cypress Quartet, Joel Smirnoff, and Pacifica Quartet. This September, she will be attending New England Conservatory where she will be studying with Boston Symphony Orchestra's concertmaster, Malcolm Lowe.

**Ryan Lee** is a graduating senior at Crystal Lake South High School and will be majoring in piano and biology at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana next year. He began piano at the age of seven with Janet Joichi, studying the Suzuki method. He then studied with Hyeyoon Jung for about four years until about two years ago he started studying with Dr. Sunghoon Mo. Ryan has also excelled in his academic achievements and is an AP Scholar, James Scholar Honor, and Illinois State Scholar Award. He enjoys playing piano and hopes that he will be able to continue with it through his college years and beyond.

**Seri Lee**, age ten, is a fifth grader at Townline Elementary School. She started playing the cello at age eight and is currently studying with Cecilia Ham. She was the first place winner at the Granquist Music Competition and most recently first place winner in the 2009 SAM Competition. She enjoys drawing and hanging out with her friends.

**Sonia Mantell** has been playing the cello for ten years and is currently studying with Hans Jensen at the Music Institute of Chicago, where she is a part of the Senior Academy program. Sonia is co-principal cellist of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra and has won several awards, including the '08 concerto competition at Birch Creek Festival in Door County, WI and second place in SAM ('08 senior division.) This fall she won second chair in the IMEA All-State Honors Orchestra. Sonia will be a senior this fall at Carl Sandburg High School in Orland Park and plans on majoring in cello performance in college.

**Allison Milligan** is twelve years old and currently studies flute with Hideko Amano. She is a member of Midwest Young Artists' Philharmonia Orchestra and attends Deer Path Middle School in Lake Forest, where she participates in the Deer Path Band and the Woodwind Ensemble. She has been a featured performer in Deer Path band, choir and orchestra concerts. Allison recently received a perfect score for her flute solo in the school solo and ensemble festival. In addition, Allison sings in *Voices Rising*, MYA's choral ensemble for middle school students, under the direction of Mr. Gary Fry. She also enjoys playing the piano and has studied with Ms. Katherine Chang for seven years.

**Tabitha Oh** is a member of the Music Institute of Chicago's Academy program for gifted pre-college musicians, where she studies the violin privately with MIC artist faculty member Desiree Ruhstrat. She began violin at age six and has gone on to win top prizes in numerous local competitions. In 2006, she soloed with the Northwest Symphony Orchestra and in 2007, she participated in a master class with David Russell at the Cleveland Institute of Music. In 2008 she studied chamber music with members of the Brentano, Shanghai, and Orion Quartets. Tabitha is a seventh grader at the Lycée Français de Chicago.

Seventeen year old **Jaimie Sachay** began her musical journey at the age of three, studying violin at NIU's Community School of the Arts under the tutelage of Ann Montzka-Smelser. Three years ago, she found her musical soul mate in the viola, and has since become quite accomplished, placing second in the senior strings division of the 2007 Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center Competition and 2008 SAM Competition, as well as performing with the NIU Community School of the Arts Youth Sinfonia as the 2007 Concerto Competition winner. In November that same year, she also performed on her viola as part of the *Young Steinway Series* at the Skokie Public Library. This year she was a semi finalist in the Johansen International String Competition. Last summer, Jaimie attended the Meadowmount School of Music, and will be touring South America this year as a member of the CYSO, where she is a principal violist. She is also the principal violist in the Encore Chamber Orchestra and the NIU Community School of the Arts Youth Sinfonia. Jaimie is enrolled in Academy program at MIC, which is designed for young musicians planning to pursue a career in music, and studies viola with Desiree Ruhstrat. This fall Jaimie will be attending the Cleveland Institute of Music.

**Adler Scheidt**, age 17, is a classical and jazz guitarist and lover of all music. He has studied classical guitar with Jesse Langen for over four years, in which time he has also enjoyed the privilege of learning from the great guitarists Anne Waller and Mark Maxwell. While he has great interest in classical music, Adler is also engaged in an unbounded pursuit of jazz and improvised music. He currently studies with guitarist Frank Portolese, and always enjoys learning from others, whether from great players on recordings or simply from friends. In addition, Adler attends Walter Payton College Prep HS in Chicago, IL, and enjoys good writing, movies, and photography.

**Kimmy Siu** is a ten year-old, 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Northbrook Shabonee School. She started playing piano when she was five with Sueanne Metz and currently studies with Brenda Huang. Kimmy has won many piano awards, including: Outstanding at Grandquist Music Competition, first place at the Illinois Music Association, Gold

medals at the CAMTA Sonatina, the NSMTA Sonata-Sonatina and NWSMTA Sonatina festivals and awards at the Confucius Music Festival and the DePaul Concerto Festival. Kimmy also studies the violin with Ms. Larisa Zhizhin and performs with the Shabonee Orchestra. She enjoys performing Chinese folk dances, swimming, playing tennis and golf. In her spare time, she likes to read, play video games and watch the Disney Channel.

**Nathan Walhout** just turned twelve years old and has studied the cello with Jeanne Johannesen since he was four years old. He has attended numerous Suzuki Institutes where he often performs on Honors Recitals. A sixth grade orchestra student at Franklin Middle School in Wheaton, he participated in the Middle School IMEA Orchestra this past year. Other past honors include second place and several honorable mentions in Society of American Musicians Competitions, the 20098 Confucius Competition, second place in the regional 2008 MTNA Competition, and first place in the 2009Glen Ellyn-Wheaton Music Club Scholarship Contest. At the Wheaton College Community School of the Arts, he participates in several chamber ensembles and was chosen to perform at the annual Concerto Concert. In addition to his cello studies, he studies piano with Matt Gemmill. When Nathan isn't playing music, he enjoys riding his bike and shooting hoops in the neighborhood.

**Michaela Wellems**, an 8th grader, began her studies at the age of four. A student at the Junior Academy Program at MIC, and member of the CYSO, she was formerly Concert Mistress of MYA Concert Orchestra. During the summer, she attends Okemo Young Artists Program in Ludlow, Vermont as a student of Marko Dreher, Almita Vamos, and David Bowlin, She has also attended Astona International Festival in Switzerland where her teachers included Mikhail Mouller and Francis Gouton. She has garnered prizes in the SAM Competition, Sejong Competition, Junior Academy, Walgreens Concerto Competition, was a finalist in the CYSO Competition, and received a scholarship from the CSO Youth Competition. She has participated in master classes with Bela Keyes, Rachel Barton Pine, Zvi Zeitlan, and her trio, *Arad*, was invited to compete in the 2009 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition. She enjoys soccer, cross country, and raising love birds.

**Kevin Xu** is an eighth- grade student at Daniel Wright Junior High School in Lincolnshire. He began his piano studies at the age of 5 and has studied with Carol Honigberg for the past 6 years at the Music Institute of Chicago, Lake Forest Campus. Participating in many competitions and honor recitals, Kevin has won several gold medals in the NSMTA Sonata-Sonatina Competition and first place in the junior level of the Lake Forest Symphony Music School's Young Artist Competition. In addition to his music achievements, Kevin received the Recognition Award of Midwest Academic Talent Search Program in 2008 and 2009. In his spare time, Kevin enjoys practicing Chinese Martial Arts and playing club volleyball.

Sixteen-year-old **Ryan Zerna**, attends Oswego High School in Oswego, Illinois. He recently won the Junior Division in the Union League Civic Arts Foundation Competition and placed second in the senior division of the Chicago Flute Club Competition. He currently studies with Hideko Amano and his former teacher is Cate Hummel. Ryan is also a member of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra.

## *Donors Circle*

Thanks to the generosity of the following individuals and organizations, The Society of American Musicians is able to continue hosting its annual competition and encouraging young, aspiring musicians of the next generation.

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The Society of American Musicians would also like to thank

## *Music in the Loft*



for its collaboration in presenting the  
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