



## The Society of American Musicians

# 2010 Competition Winner's Concert

June 11, 2010  
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.

### *Board of Directors*

*2009-2010*

Dr. Soo Young Lee, *President*  
David Cunliffe, *Vice-President*  
Cecilia Ham, *Treasurer*  
Sarah Montzka  
Desirée Ruhstrat  
Norman Ruiz  
Kathleen van de Graaf

Katherine K. Lee, *Artistic Director*

*How can you help support  
the  
Society of American Musicians?*

- ≈ Sponsor a monetary prize for any instrument  
And/or division of your choice
  - ⦿ In recognition of a music lover that you know
  - ⦿ In memoriam of a loved one
- ≈ Volunteer at the 2010 Young Artist Competition  
For piano & flute (Spring 2010)
- ≈ Hosting an evening of music featuring laureates  
for donors who contribute \$500 or more
- ≈ Sponsoring a page in the Program Book

It is your generosity and unwavering commitment that has allowed us to continue fostering a generation of new musical talent.

For more information, please contact the  
Artistic Director, **Kate Nir**  
director@samusicians.com

*Schedule of Events*

≈ OPENING REMARKS ≈

*Katherine H. Lee, Artistic Director*

≈ PERFORMANCES ≈

*Laureates of the 2010 Competition*

≈ GROUP PHOTO ≈

*Please turn off all cell phones and pagers*

*&*

*Refrain from using flash photography  
during the performances*

# Program

---

Waltz in e minor Op. posthumous.....Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)  
**Amber Scherer, piano**

Etude in C Major, Op. 10 no.1..... Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)  
**Rachel Hsu, piano**

Sonata no.3 in G Major.....Johann Frideric Handel (1685-1759)  
I. Allegro

**Grace Tu, flute**  
**Mary Drews, piano**

Tarantella.....Albert Pieczonka (1828-1912)  
**Katie Li, piano**

Praeludium and Allegro.....Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962)

**Zachary Brandon, violin**  
**Milana Pavchinskaya, piano**

Fantasia.....Silvius Leopold Weiss (1687-1750)

**Andrew Wilder, guitar**

Sonata in a minor, D. 821.....Franz Schubert (1797-1828 )

**Kathryn Chiodo, flute**  
**Tatyana Stepanova, piano**

Introduction and Tarantelle.....Pablo de Sarasate (1844-1908)

**Gallia Kastner, violin**  
**Milana Pavchinskaya, piano**

*Intermission*

Sonata no.1 in g minor, BWV 1001.....J.S. Bach (1685-1750)  
I. Presto

**Michael Rau, violin**

Concerto for Flute & Orchestra in D Major , Op. 283.....Carl Reinecke  
III. Finale – Moderato

**Sorcha Barr, flute**  
**Tatyana Stepanova, piano**

Viola Concerto in D Major, Opus 1.....Carl Stamitz (1745-1801)  
I. Allegro

**Devon Nafzger, viola**  
**Mary Drews, piano**

Regrets and Resolutions .....Gary Schocker (1959- )

**Katherine Scotkowski, flute**  
**Jane McGinnis, piano**

Libra Sonatine in e minor.....Roland Dyens (1955- )  
III. Fuoco

**Brandon Acker, guitar**

Sonata in E major Op. 27 no. 6.....Eugène Ysaÿe (1858-1931)

**Leah Latorraca, violin**

Roumanian Dances.....Béla Bartok (1881-1945)

- I. Jocu bata
- II. Braul
- III. Pe-Loc
- IV. Buciumeana
- V. Poaraga romaneasca
- VI. Maruntel

**Alexander Hersh, cello**  
**Shirley Trissell, piano**

La Campenella in b minor .....Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

**Hannah Kay, piano**

Rococo Variations..... Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

**Ben Solomonow, cello**  
*Recipient of the Chicago Cello Society Prize*  
**Shirley Trissell, piano**

## Performers

---

Twenty year old **Brandon Acker**, is a sophomore majoring in classical guitar performance at DePaul University, where he is currently studying with Mark Maxwell. He has studied classical guitar for four years but got his start playing electric guitar at the age of eleven. The SAM Collegiate Guitar Competition was Brandon's first experience in a competition. He has performed in master classes with Elena Papendreu and Muriel Anderson. Brandon also enjoys sound engineering, studying voice, listening to opera and performing with his rock band, who recently released their second album.

**Sorcha Barr** is a sophomore at Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville, where she plays in the Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra. She initially studied with Dr. Cate Hummel and has studied under Hideko Amano since 2006. This season, Sorcha was an alternate finalist in the CFC senior division, played in the IMEA District IX Band, and was awarded Honorable Mention in the CSO Concerto Competition. She plays in the Chicago Youth Concert Orchestra, and is in the CYSO Adelphi Flute quartet, and will be playing on WFMT's Introductions program this summer. Sorcha enjoys playing on her school's Junior Varsity badminton team.

**Zachary Brandon** started his first private lessons with Mr. Jim Butler at the age of four-and-a-half. In 2009, he won Young Soloist Competitions in Kalamazoo Symphony, Kalamazoo Junior Symphony and Young Artist Competition in Fort Wayne, IN. He has soloed with Battle Creek Orchestra, Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra and Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra. He has performed for many master classes including Dr. John Kendall, a pioneer in Suzuki method in America, Mr. Marlone, concert master for San Francisco Ballet, Mrs. Bella Keys, and Mrs. Miriam Fried, and Mr. Nick Eanet of Julliard String Quartet. He is currently studying with HyeSun Lee at the Music Institute of Chicago.

**Kathryn Chiodo** is an eighth grade student at Lincoln Middle school in Park Ridge. She has achieved many awards past one year including first place in the junior division of 2009 Chicago Flute Club Competition, honorable mention at the DePaul Community Concerto Competition, and honorable mention from 2009 SAM Competition. She was also selected to play the solo part of Prokofieff's *Pefer and Wolf* at Midwest Young Artists, and participated two consecutive years in IMEA district 7 and the chamber music program at Midwest Young Artists. Kathryn enjoys dancing three times a week in addition to her musical activities. She studies with Hideko Amano.

A native of Minnesota, **Alexander Hersh** moved to Chicago at the age of two. He began playing cello at the age of five studying first with Ron Chambers, and later with Stephen Balderston. When he was 9, he joined the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra Concert Orchestra. He received an honorable mention in the Junior Division of the 2007 MYA/Walgreens Competition and later in the senior division of the 2009 MYA/Walgreens competition. Alex took first place at the 2007 Chicago Youth Concert Orchestra Concerto Competition, and performed as soloist with the orchestra in 2008. He was a semifinalist in the 2010 Lennox International Young Artist

Competition. In addition, he recently was First prize winner at the Society of American Musicians competition. Recently, Alex was invited to Hawaii to appear on NPR's, "*From The Top*." As a member of the Emerald String Quartet, Alex has been a Gold Medalist at the Saint Paul String Quartet Competition, Jules M. Laser National Chamber Music Competition and the Chicago National Chamber Music Competition. They were also Silver Medalists at the 2010 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. An active attendee of summer programs, Alex has attended such festivals as the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra music camp, Madeline Island Music Camp, and the Meadowmount School of Music. Alex currently attends Jones College Prep, and the Academy program at the Music Institute of Chicago, where he studies with Hans Jensen.

**Rachel Shekinah Hsu** is a third grade student at Romona Elementary School in Wilmette. She has learned piano for four years and violin for five years. Currently she studies piano with Sueanne Metz and violin with Desirée Ruhstrat. Rachel has won many piano competitions, including 1st place at SAM, Confucius Music Festival, Illinois Music Association, the MACMO Piano Contest, CAMTA Roberta Savler Piano Contest, Granquist Music Competition in Olympic Division, as well as gold medals at the NSMTA and CAMTA Sonata-Sonatina Festivals. She received Honorable Mention at the DePaul Concerto Festival for Young Performers. She was the winner in Steinway Young Artist Competition 2008, 2009, 2010 and her performance has been broadcast live on WFMT radio station as a winner in 2008. Rachel also won many violin competitions, including first-place awards in 2008 Confucius Music Festival and in 2009 SAM violin competitions. She received Honorable Mention in Walgreens National 2010 Concerto Competition String Category and was the winner of 2009 DePaul Concerto Festival For Young Performers having chance to play violin solo with the DePaul Symphony Orchestra. Her other interests include: singing, writing, drawing, reading and math.

Thirteen-year-old, **Gallia Kastner**, a merit scholarship student at the Senior Academy of Music Institute of Chicago is a student of Almita and Roland Vamos. Gallia has won numerous competition including the 2010 SAM Competition's intermediate division, 2010 Junior Division winner of the Walgreens National Concerto Competition, Chinese Fine Arts Society, Sejong Cultural Society Competition, as well as 2009 Jules M. Laser Chamber Music Competition. She received a career grant from the Rachel Elizabeth Barton Pine Foundation and performs on a copy of the "ex-Soldat" Guarneri delGesù by Peter Seman, 2008 on generous loan from the REB Foundation.

**Hannah Kay** is 15 years old and a sophomore at Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, IL. As a student of Brenda Huang, she has won numerous awards from the Society of American Musicians, the Chinese Fine Arts Society (CFAS), the Sejong Cultural Society, and NSMTA. Most recently, she earned honors at the First Annual Emilio Del Rosario Concerto Competition. In June 2009, she completed her level 12 AIM theory and performance exams. She was honored as a Finalist at the 2009 CSO Youth Auditions and performed at The Symphony Center. Hannah was also a guest soloist in the 2009-10 Skokie Library Young Artists Series. As pianist for The Midwest Young Artists' (MYA) Trio Bravo, Hannah has performed at The Symphony Center, the Chicago Art Institute, and the Skokie Library Young Artists Series. They were most recently honored as Semi-Finalists at the 2010 Fischhoff

National Chamber Competition. Trio Bravo received honors at the 2010 MYA Chamber Competition, the 2010 Rembrandt Chamber Competition, and was awarded the 2008 Virginia G. Behrendt Scholarship through CFAS. Her other interests include following the Yankees, playing volleyball, badminton, and dancing.

**Leah Latorraca**, age 17 of Madison, Wisconsin, is 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 Desirée Ruhstrat. She received 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 2009 Alexander and Buono International String Competition, Honorable Mention in the Walgreen's National Concerto Competition and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Wisconsin ASTA competition. Leah has soloed with the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras and the Madison Symphony Orchestra. Leah has performed in master classes for Joel Smirnoff, Pamela Frank, Chee-Yun, Judith Ingolfsson, and William Preucil, and performed the Mendelssohn Octet with Ani and Ida Kavafian.

**Devon Nafziger**, a sophomore at Stevenson High School, studies viola with Desirée Ruhstrat at the Music Institute of Chicago. Devon has played the violin since age 5, but last summer, at 15, she switched to the viola. She has received awards including: SAM Viola Senior Division winner, Walgreens Concerto Competition's Early Music Category Winner, Rami Solomonow Merit Scholarship winner, and Musichorale Scholarship Recipient Winner. In addition, Devon performs in the Midwest Young Artists Symphony Orchestra in Highwood, IL and was principal viola on the 2010 Germany Tour. With MYA, Devon participates in the early and new music ensemble, the i Solisti chamber orchestra, and a string quartet. Devon looks forward to attending the Aspen Music Festival this summer.

**Michael Rau** began playing violin at age six. He is concertmaster of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, and was a member of the CYSO's Encore Chamber Orchestra. Michael placed second at the Elmhurst Symphony Youth Concerto Competition, and third at both the SAM Competition and the DuPage Symphony Young Artist Competition. Last summer, Michael was an Emerson Scholar to Interlochen Arts Camp where he was in the first stand of the World Youth Symphony Orchestra for the entire six weeks of camp and concertmaster for a concert featuring international soprano Sumi Jo. He was selected to play in the Honors All-State Orchestra for IMEA, and recently was chosen concertmaster of the Illinois District I Orchestra Festival. Last year, Michael was a part of the Music Institute of Chicago Senior Academy program and studies with Almita Vamos and Sangmee Lee. He is currently in a sextet through the MYA and a quartet at his school. He plans to pursue a major in music performance at a college or conservatory.

**Amber Scherer** is a seventh grader at Washburne School in Winnetka. She's been playing piano since she was seven years-old. She is studying piano with Marta Aznavoorian, and her favorite composers include Chopin, Mendelssohn, and Beethoven. When she is away from piano, she enjoys reading, especially fantasy novels, and creative writing. She also studies violin with SangMee Lee at MIC and is a member of Concert Orchestra at MYA.

**Katherine Scotkowski** has been playing the flute for seven years. During this time, she has studied with Mary McDermont, Dawn Marie Hirsch, Wendy Hoffhines, and is currently studying with Susan Crandall. Katherine has garnered first place in the Society of American Musicians Intermediate Division and was delighted to have tied with Sorcha Barr in this year's Senior division. She also has performed in the Honors Recital at the Festival of Flutes and has been awarded first place at the Chicago Flute Club's annual solo competition. She is a member of the Merit Honors Flute Quartet, which has won the 2009 MYA Chamber Music Competition. In 2008 to 2009, she was the principle flute of the Chicago Youth Symphony Concert Orchestra and is currently principle of the Wind Ensemble and co-principle of the Merit Symphony Orchestra at the Merit School of Music. Katherine plans on pursuing her dream of attending law school one day.

**Ben Solomonow**, 14, began his cello studies at the age of 5 and studies with Hans Jensen at MIC. He was twice the winner of both the Walgreens National Concerto Competition and the Society of American Musicians Competition. Ben soloed with a number of regional orchestras in the Chicago area. He has played in the Schubertiade concert series, the Chicago Cello Society, and twice on the Pilgrim Concert Series. He was featured twice on WFMT "Introductions," and will perform shortly on NPR "From the Top." He also played in a master class for Lynn Harrell. He plays a cello by William Whedbee in 1998.

**Grace Tu**, 10, is a fifth grader at Christian Heritage Academy in Northfield. She has been a student of Meret Bitticks at the Music Institute of Chicago since she began playing the flute 3 years ago. Grace recently won first place in the elementary division of the 2009 Chicago Flute Club Annual Student Competition. She also performed at the Sherwood Festival of Flutes Honors Recital in 2009 and placed first at the Granquist Music Competition in 2008 and 2009. Also a finalist in this year's SAM piano primary division, Grace has played the piano for four years with Suanne Metz. She was the first place winner in the 2007 and 2009 Roberta Savler Piano Contest and has received awards from the Music Festival in Honor of Confucius, the Illinois Music Association, and the CAMTA and NSMTA Sonata-Sonatina Festivals. She will be performing at Carnegie Hall on June 13th. Grace's favorite subjects in school are science and math, and she loves to write stories.

**Andrew Wilder** is seventeen years old and has been studying guitar for six and a half years. He has since studied with Tom Hoeffgen, Loretta Jones, Howard Glanton, Norman Ruiz, Emily Jones and Michael Patilla; and is currently studying with Pamela Kimmel. Andrew has also performed in a masterclass for Lorenzo Micheli. He has studied at the MasterWorks Festival, performing solo and chamber music. This summer he will be attending the Mediterranean Guitar Festival in Cervo, Italy.

## 2010 Laureates

---

<b>CELLO</b>	Primary	1st Place ~ Nathan Mo, <i>Student of Hans Jensen</i> 2nd Place ~ Angela Lee, <i>Student of Gilda Barston</i> HM ~ Liam Tracy, <i>Student of Gilda Barston</i>
	Junior	1st Place ~ Krystian Chiu, <i>Student of Blake Brasch</i> 2nd Place ~ Nathan Mo, <i>Student of Hans Jensen</i> HM ~Nathan Walhout, <i>Student of J. Johannesen</i> HM ~ Josiah Yoo, <i>Student of Gilda Barston</i>
	Intermediate	1st Place ~ Ben Solomonow <i>Student of Hans Jensen</i> 2nd Place ~ Krystian Chiu, <i>Student of Blake Brasch</i> HM ~ Garrett Chou, <i>Student of David Cunliffe</i> HM ~ Emily Camras, <i>Student of Andrea LaFranzo</i>
	Senior	1st Place ~Ben Solomonow, <i>Student of Hans Jensen</i> 1st Place ~ Alexander Hersh, <i>Student of Hans Jensen</i> 2nd Place~ Jessica Bieniarz, <i>Student of Hans Jensen</i> HM ~ Zulin Hsueh, <i>Student of Tanya Carey</i> HM ~ Mickie Yeagley, <i>Student of Nazar Dzhuryan</i>
<b>FLUTE</b>	Junior	1st Place ~ Grace Tu, <i>Student of Meret Bitticks</i> 2nd Place ~ Kelly Choi, <i>Student of Hideko Amano</i> HM ~Anna Rhodes, <i>Student of Susan Crandall</i>
	Intermediate	1st Place ~ Kathryn Chiodo, <i>Student of Hideko Amano</i> 2nd Place ~ Sara Lee, <i>Student of Hideko Amano</i>
	Senior	1st Place ~ Sorcha Barr, <i>Student of Hideko Amano</i> 1st Place ~ Katherine Scotkowski, <i>Student of S. Crandall</i> 2nd Place ~ Kevin Dinh, <i>Student of Donna Milanovich</i>
<b>GUITAR</b>	Senior	1st Place~ Andrew Wilder, <i>Student of Pamela Kimmel</i> 2nd Place ~ Mitchell Green, <i>Student of Julia Miller</i> HM ~ Alexander Gomez, <i>Student of Julia Trowbridge</i>
	Collegiate	1st Place ~ Brandon Acker, <i>Student of Mark Maxwell</i> 2nd Place ~ Jordan Knudson, <i>Student of Norman Ruiz</i> HM ~ Rachel Schiff, <i>Student of Anne Waller</i> HM ~ Michael Bane, <i>Student of Anne Waller</i>
<b>PIANO</b>	Primary	1st Place ~ Rachel Hsu, <i>Student of Sueanne Metz</i> 2nd Place ~ Amanda Fan, <i>Student of Brenda Huang</i> HM ~ Lia Kim, <i>Student of Marta Aznavoorian</i>
	Junior	1st Place ~ Amber Scherer, <i>Student of M. Aznavoorian</i> 2nd Place ~Vivian Jin, <i>Student of Brenda Huang</i> 2nd Place ~ Roger Shen, <i>Student of Sueanne Metz</i> HM ~ Joshua Zhu, <i>Student of Sueanne Metz</i>
	Intermediate	1st Place ~ Kyle Jannak-Huang, <i>Student of B. Huang</i> 2nd Place ~ Katie Li, <i>Student of Soyoung Kee</i>
	Senior	1st Place ~ Hannah Kay, <i>Student of Brenda Huang</i> 2nd Place ~ Norman Luc, <i>Student of Janice Razaq</i>

<b>VIOLA</b>	Senior	1st Place ~ Devon Naftzger, <i>Student of D. Ruhstrat</i> 2nd Place ~ Stephanie Block, <i>Student of D. Ruhstrat</i>
<b>VIOLIN</b>	Primary	1st Place ~ Zachary Brandon, <i>Student Hye-Sun Lee</i> 2nd Place ~ Karisa Chiu, <i>Student of Cornelius Chiu</i> HM ~ Chloe Lee, <i>Student of Desiree Ruhstrat</i>
	Junior	1st Place ~ Zachary Brandon, <i>Student Hye-Sun Lee</i> 2nd Place ~ Karisa Chiu, <i>Student of Cornelius Chiu</i> HM ~ Tabby Rhee, <i>Student Hye-Sun Lee</i>
	Intermediate	1st Place ~ Gallia Kastner, <i>Student of Almita Vamos</i> 2nd Place ~ Ursula Steele, <i>Student of S. Spencer</i> HM ~ Giancarlo Latta, <i>Student of Almita Vamos</i>
	Senior	1st ~ Michael Rau, <i>Student of Almita Vamos</i> 2nd ~ Laura Park, <i>Student of M. Dreher &amp; A. Vamos</i> HM ~ Ethan Hoppe, <i>Student of M. Dreher &amp; A. Vamos</i>
	Young Artist	1st ~ Leah Latorraca, <i>Student of Desiree Ruhstrat</i> 2nd ~ Erika Gray, <i>Student of Desiree Ruhstrat</i>
<b>VOICE</b>	Intermediate	2nd Place ~ Julia Bard, <i>Student of Janice Pantezelos</i> 2nd Place ~Amanda Cutto, <i>Student of Victoria Holland</i>
<b>JULES M. LASER CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION</b>		1st ~ Emerald Quartet Quartet, <i>Coached by M.Dreher</i> Alexander Hersh Ethan Hoppe Kenneth Jones-Madrid Clayton Penrose-Whitmore
		2nd ~ Danae Quartet, <i>Coached by Roland Vamos</i> Sophia Cho Zachary Spontak Leah Ferguson Benjamin Fried
		HM ~ Trifecta, <i>Coached by Naomi Bensdorf</i> Quinn Delaney Lauren Williams Frank Wu
		HM ~ Quintet Hero, <i>Coached by Naomi Bensdorf</i> Ian Daugherty Evan Fojtik Sam Mattenson Zachary Popp Joshua Sechan

## *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.

Gilda Barston  
Kenneth Drake  
Dr. Karin Edwards  
Cyrus Forough  
Joel & Carol Honigberg Fund

Hans Jensen  
Jeanne Johannesen  
Mr. Jules M. Laser  
Gaye Klopak  
Janice Pantezelos

## *Special Thanks To*

Fredda Hyman  
Mark George  
Sam Nordlund  
Alysia Raine  
Steve Robinson  
Fiona Queen  
WFMT 98.7 FM  
Rose Vakili

The Society of American Musicians would also like to thank

## *Music in the Loft*



for its collaboration in presenting the  
2010 Jules M. Laser Chamber Music Competition

The Society of American Musicians would like to thank

## *The Music Institute of Chicago*

for generously lending its facilities for the 2010 Competition

