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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2017 Competition
Winners Concert

Sunday, April 9
3:00 PM

Lake Forest College
Lily Reid Holt Memorial Chapel
555 N. Sheridan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045
PROGRAM

Etude, Op 45, No 15 “Warrior’s Song” ................................. Stephen Heller (1813-1888)
   Elliot Kim, piano

Gavotte ........................................................................................................Jean-Philippe Rameau (1683-1764)
   Mingshi Xia, violin
   Shirley Trissell, piano

Sicilienne from Pelleas et Melisande...................................................... Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
   Grace Choi, flute
   Sunghoon Mo, piano

Sonata in e minor, Op. 14, No. 5 .................................................... Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)
   II. Largo
      Simon Updegraff, cello
      Ross Updegraff, piano

Sonata in G Major ............................................................................ Giovanni Battista Sammartini (1698-1775)
   III. Vivace
      Sophia LaFleur, cello
      Sarah LaFleur, piano

Mazurka in g minor, Op. 11 no.3...................................................... David Popper (1843-1913)
   Mia Wimbiscus, cello
   Sunghoon Mo, piano

Grand Études de Paganini no. 1 in g minor ...................................... Franz Liszt (1811-1886)
   Kimiko Darcy, piano

Symphonie Espagnole Op. 21 in d minor ........................................... Édouard Lalo (1823-1892)
   I. Allegro non troppo.
      Abigail Park, violin
      Milana Pavchinskaya, piano

Bloomful Desert in a minor ................................................................. Andre Reilly (2003-)
   Andre Reilly, guitar

La Catedral ............................................................................................. Agustín Barrios (1885-1944)
   III. Allegro Solemne
      Jordan Dembsky, guitar

Concertino Op. 107 ........................................................................... Cécilie Chaminade (1857-1944)
   Lydia Walquist, flute
   Hsing-Huei Huang, piano

Flute Sonata in D Major, Op. 94........................................................... Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)
   IV. Allegro con Brio
      Jennifer Wang, flute
      Hsing-Huei Huang, piano


2017 LAUREATES

CELLO

Primary
1st Place
Simon Updegraff

2nd Place
Jeffrey Tong

Honorable Mention
Olivia Boe

Junior
1st Place
Sophia LaFleur

2nd Place
Joseph Brackmann

Intermediate
1st Place
Mia Wimbiscus

2nd Place
Darcie Kim

FLUTE

Junior
1st Place
Grace Choi

2nd Place
Chaeyoung Lee

Honorable Mention
Nicole Wah

Intermediate
1st Place
Lydia Walquist

2nd Place
Rosie Wang

Senior
1st Place
Jennifer Wang

Honorable Mention
Kaitlyn Kowalski

GUITAR

Intermediate
1st Place
Jordan Dembsky

2nd Place
Alec Avery

Honorable Mention
Max Shepherd

PIANO

Primary
1st Place
Elliot Kim

2nd Place
Tiannie Wang

Honorable Mention
Angelika Wang & Alexandra Zhu

Junior
1st Place
Kimiko Darcy

2nd Place
Emily Lu

Honorable Mention
Meera Khare & Annie Wang

Intermediate
1st Place
Holden Mui

2nd Place
Thomas Filipiuk

Young Artist
1st Place
Muzi Zhao

2nd Place
Emily Cho

Honorable Mention
Sun Chang & John Schindler

VIOLA

Young Artist
1st Place
Tabby Rheee

2nd Place
Sofiy Kryvylyuk

VIOLIN

Primary
1st Place
Mingshi Xia

2nd Place
Jasmine Horton

Honorable Mention
Henry Auxenfans

Junior
1st Place
Abigail Park

2nd Place
Sidney Lee

Intermediate
1st Place
Margaret O’Malley

2nd Place
Isabel Chen

Senior
1st Place
Julian Rhee

2nd Place
Rahia Brooke
Mingshi Xia is a fifth grader at Lenart Elementary. He started playing the violin at the Hyde Park Suzuki Institute when he was five. His current teacher is Ms. Lucinda Ali-Landing. Mingshi loves music and enjoys playing his instrument. He is also a good badminton player and likes to play Ping-Pong as well. When he has time, he loves to listen to music, watch movies and go fishing.

Muzi Zhao began his piano studies at the age of four under the tutelage of Ying Zheng. In 2008, Muzi Zhao was accepted to the Junior Music Program of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and studied with Professor Gabriel Kwok. In 2016, he was accepted by Northwestern University with full scholarship with Professor Alan Chow. He has won several national and international awards including the 4th prize at the 2012 Gina Bachauer International Junior Piano Competition, gold prize at the 2013 Fourth Kawai Asian Piano Competition in Asia, 1st prize at the 2013 Fourth Kawai Asian Piano Competition and the 5th prize at the 2014 Ettingen international Competition for Young Pianists.

In addition to guitar, Jordan plays trumpet in his school’s band and is on the high school tennis team. His other interests include basketball, football, baseball, skiing, and word games.
Sophia LaFleur was only two and half years old when she first started playing cello. She is currently a sixth grader at Chute Middle School and studies with Blake Brash at Music Institute of Chicago. In addition to loving her instrument, she also enjoys reading, drawing, and playing with her two cats Pepper and Nickel.

Eighth grader, Holden Mui’s primary interests include music and mathematics. He received first place at the 2009 Granquist Music Competition, gold medals at the 2012 & 2013 NSMTA Sonata Festivals and 2013 CAMTA Sonata Festival, first place in Primary and Junior divisions at 2013 & 2014 Society of American Musicians Competition, and first place in Junior division at the 2016 MTNA Composition Competition with his original composition, Aquarium. His awards in mathematics include Second place at State Math Counts and a perfect score on the AMC 10. Holden will be competing at National Math Competition in Texas as one of four winners representing State of Illinois in May. Holden began his piano studies with Ms. Meeyoung Park at the age of four, and is currently studying composition with Dr. Matt Hagle and piano with Ms. Kate Nir at Music Institute of Chicago.

Sixteen-year-old Margaret O’Malley began her musical studies on violin at the Community School of Arts in Wheaton College. She has won awards for her performances from the Youth Symphony of DuPage Competition, DuPage Symphony Orchestra Competition, DePaul Concerto Festival and the Elmhurst Competition. She received first place at the Glen Ellyn Wheaton Music Club Competition, and the Rockford Youth Symphony Orchestra Competition. Margaret has been a member of the Youth Symphony of DuPage, the Elmhurst Youth Symphony, the Midwest Young Artists Symphony Orchestra and St. John Cantius’ Resurrection Orchestra. Currently, she serves as principle violist of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra as well as participating in the chamber program there. An avid ensemble player, Margaret has won various awards from the Rembrandt Chamber Competition as well as performing in the quarterfinals of the National Fischoff Chamber Competition. In addition to her violin studies under Gerardo Ribeiro, she also studies viola with Rose Armbrust-Giffin. Margaret has been privileged to study violin with Mrs. Anita Arch, Mrs. Ann Montzka-Smelser, and Mr. Mark Zinger. Margaret is homeschooled and in her free time, enjoys reading, baking, and charcoal drawing.

Abigail Park, 13, began her violin studies when she was 4 years old at the Betty Haag Music Academy. She studied with Betty Haag for four years while participating in their many concerts including their Orchestra Hall concerts. She has also performed as a member of Midwest Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Taka Matsunaga. Abigail has been awarded top prizes including first place in the elementary division at 2014 Sejong Music Competition, first place in the 2015 SAM Competition’s primary division, honorable mention in the 2016 Depaul Concerto Competition and the 2016 SAM Competition, and first place in the junior division of the 2017 SAM Competition. Abigail has studied with Dr. Hye Sun Lee for the past fours and a half years at the Music Institute of Chicago, where she is a Merit Scholarship recipient. Violin is her primary instrument, but Abigail also plays the piano. She enjoys singing, dancing, swimming, and hanging out with friends in her spare time. She is an active member of the newscast team at her middle school. She is a seventh grader at Northbrook Junior High.

Andre Reilly received his first guitar at the age of six. He started out playing and singing blues and rock music. Andre has been featured in Guitar World and Guitar Player Magazine for his uncanny ability to cover Jimi Hendrix Classics, and Eric Johnson’s Cliffs of Dover. He is a prolific writer/performer in both contemporary and classical genres. In 2014 Andre won 1st place for classical guitar in the Dourlet Competition in the Junior Division. This past summer he placed 1st in the all ages Wilson Competition for rock genre and opened for Al Dimeola. Most recently he won first place for The Dourlet Competition 2017. Andre is an evolving artist, his love of music includes jazz, blues, and classical. He is a fully endorsed artist with Ibanez Guitars. We would like to extend our deepest thanks to Maestro Steven Vazquez from Harper College who has been instrumental in teaching and challenging Andre with his Classical Guitar Studies, this year Andre is honored to be part of the Harper College Guitar Ensemble.

Julian Rhee, age 16, received several first prizes this year including the 2017 SAM Young Artist Competition, DuPage and West Suburban Competition, LaCrosse Symphony Orchestra Rising Star Competition, and Madison Bolt Young Artist Competition. He has also received first place at the 2016 MTNA National Senior Strings, 2015 MSO Young Artist Grand Prize, 2015 MSO Final Forte, 2015 Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, Overall Junior Division winner of the 2013 Walgreens National Concerto Competition, 2012 & 2013 Sejong Competition, SAM Competition in the Senior, Junior and Intermediate Division, and he won the MSO Bach Double Competition at the age of seven. Julian was selected as the youngest semifinalist in the 2016 William C. Byrd International Competition, was two-time semifinalist of the 2013 & 2016 Stradivarius International Violin Competition, the latter at age 12 as the youngest competitor, 2015 Johansen and 2015 Cooper International Competition. This summer, Julian will go on South America Debut Tour to Argentina and Uruguay with MYSO as the guest soloist. He currently studies with Hye-Sun Lee and Almita Vamos.

Tabby Rhee is currently a student of the Music Institute of Chicago. Her recent accomplishments include: Winner of the 2016 Madison Symphony Orchestra Bolz Young Artist Competition, Winner of the 2016 Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition, and Winner of the 2016 Milwaukee Youth Senior Symphony Concerto Competition. She has won numerous awards including: Winner of the 2015 Music Teachers National Association State Senior Division; Winner of the Satori International Music Competition; Quarter-Finalist of the Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition; Merit Scholarship for Montecito International Music Festival; Civic Music Association Scholarship. Tabby is an active member of the Wisconsin Intergenerational Orchestra as the Artistic Mentor. She devotes her time helping other musicians improve as instrumentalists and share their love for music. Additionally, she was chosen to tour with the National Youth Orchestra of the United States to Latin America this summer of 2017. She currently studies with MIC artist faculty members Roland and Almita Vamos and Hye-Sun Lee.

Simon Updegraft is 10 years old and is a 4th grade student at Middleton Elementary School in Skokie. He has been playing the cello since he was 4 ½ years old and is a student of Blake Brash. He participated last spring in the Suzuki Orchestra of the Americas (SYOA) 1 at the biennial Suzuki Association of the America’s Conference in Minneapolis, MN. Simon also studies the piano with Aaron Stampfli and recently won a silver medal in the North Shore Music Teachers’ Association Sonata-Sonatina Festival. In addition to music, Simon enjoys Taekwondo and soccer, reading, and video games. His favorite foods are chicken tikka masala and stir-fry.

Lydia Walquist, is currently principal first flutist in Protegè Philharmonic and principal first flutist in the Youth Symphony of DuPage and was formerly the piccoloist in both Protegè Philharmonic and YSDP prior to becoming first flutist. She performed with Capital City Flute Orchestra in Washington D.C. and Windy City Flute Orchestra, has soloed and received scholarships from OSU, Amer Wind Band, “A Young People Concert” and “Celebration of the Art’s Int’l Academy and has received first place at the Sherwood Academy Flute Fest, 2nd & 3rd prizes in the YSDP Concerto Competition, Honorable Mention at the DePaul University and Protegè Philharmonic Concertos Competitions and CFC Student Competition. Lydia was featured on the CFC showcase performing Bizet’s Carmen. Lydia accepted into the Alice S. Pfaelzer Conservatory at Merit School of Music and has participated in masterclasses with Nicola Mazzanti and Mimi Stillman. Lydia is currently a sophomore at Lisle Senior High and studies with Susan Levitin.

Jennifer Yu Wang is a junior at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. She has studied flute with Susan Levitin for eight years, and in that time has won every division of the Chicago Flute Club and SAM Competitions. Jenny won the DePaul Youth Concerto Festival and performed with the Oistrakh Symphony of Chicago, and was first runner-up in the Grain-Mailing Foundation Chicago Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition. She plays principal in the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra and participates in a wind quintet that was a quarterfinalist in the Fischoff Chamber Music Competition and winner at the Discover Chamber Music Competition. Jenny has many interests outside of playing the flute; she loves schools, edits her school’s art and literature journals, writes and performs poetry, wants to pursue a career in scientific research, and ice dances. In her free time, Jenny likes to read, hang out with friends, listen to music, and watch and create YouTube content.

Thirteen-year-old Mia Wimbicus is in seventh grade. She has won first prizes in the 2016 MYA Walgreens Concerto Competition’s Strings Division, 2014 & 2017 SAM Competitions, and second prizes at the 2015 & 2016 Chinese Fine Arts Society Competition. Last summer, Mia was accepted at the National Arts Center, Young Artist Program in Ottawa, Canada. She was a Merit Scholarship recipient at the Music Institute and was accepted into the 2015-2016 Academy Program. She currently is the