

*Accolades Class of 2020-2021*

## **MAY**

The Omaggio String Quartets advanced to the **Junior String Division Semifinals** of the **2021 Virtual Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition**.

### *SEMIFINALIST*

Omaggio String Quartet, coached by Mathias Tacke  
**Tara Hagle, Elinor Detmer, Abigail Park, Jan Nedvetsky**

### *QUARTERFINALISTS*

Carmen String Quartet, coached by Sang Mee Lee  
**Katherine Nelson, Veronica Rokicki, Kimberly LaFranzo, Eytan Raviv**

Zephyr String Quartet, coached by Rodolfo Vieira  
**Esme Arias-Kim, Isabel Chen, Sidney Lee, Mia Wimbiscus**

## **APRIL**

### **16th Annual St. Paul String Quartet Competition**

The St. Paul Chamber Music String Competition resulted in a series of awards for the Omaggio Quartet (**Tara Hagle, Elinor Detmer, Abigail Park and Jan Nedvetsky**), hosted virtually on YouTube on Saturday, April 24. The group is coached by **Mathias Tacke**.

First place overall, Haydn and BIPOC\* first prizes - Stars Aligned Quartet - St. Francisco, CA pre-college program

Second place - DAJJ Quartet - Chamber Music Connection - Columbus, Ohio pre-college program

Third place, Audience Prize, Haydn Honorable Mention and BIPOC Honorable Mention - Omaggio Quartet

**The Academy of the Music Institute of Chicago, Evanston, IL pre-college program**

\*Black, Indigenous, Persons Of Color Adjudicators- St. Lawrence String Quartet

Watch the competition performances, interviews, and winner announcements <https://youtu.be/UohaP0r50c4>

**The Carmen Quartet, Kate Nelson, Veronica Rokicki, Kimberly LaFranzo, Eytan Raviv**, coached by **Sang Mee Lee**, was a finalist in the competition.

The Saint Paul String Quartet Competition's primary mission is to celebrate excellence in string quartet playing, foster an increased appreciation for the chamber music art form, and enhance the music culture in this country.

### **2021 American Protege International Concerto Competition**

**Sidney Lee**, viola student of Davis King and Roland Vamos, was awarded First Place in the 2021 American Protege International Concerto Competition, playing the Walton Viola Concerto. She has been invited to perform at Carnegie Hall in NY in the Spring of 2022.

### **98th Annual Schubert Club Bruce P. Carlson Student Scholarship Competition**

Cellist **Amelia Zitoun**, student of Horacio Contreras, was just awarded First Place - Anne French Burnham Award, in the Strings Level I division of the 98th Annual Schubert Club Bruce P. Carlson Student Scholarship Competition. Violinist Katya Moeller, student of Almita Vamos, won the Second Place Helen Hunt Memorial Award in the Strings Level II division. The Schubert Club Student Scholarship Competition, held each spring, awards a total of over \$50,000 annually to young musicians to be used for further musical education.

### **American Association for the Development of the Gifted and Talented (AADGT) International Young Musicians Competition**

Pianist **Mark Zhu**, student of Yana Reznik, was awarded a GOLD Medal [piano, Group G (Age 16– 18)] in the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE GIFTED AND TALENTED (AADGT) International Young Musicians Competition celebrating Franz Liszt (1811-1885), Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921) and Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992). GOLD and SILVER MEDALS WINNERS will be invited for professional video recordings in the New York area with receiving medals and certificates.

### **2021 Baroque Music Charleston International Music Competition**

**Sonya Jones and Katya Moeller**, students of Almita Vamos, tied for 1st prize in the 2021 Baroque Music Charleston International Music Competition, Ages 15-16 category.

You can enjoy both performances of JS Bach Sonata in G Minor BWV 1001, I. Adagio

Sonya's performance <https://youtu.be/8OS1LETlc0Q>

Katya's performance <https://youtu.be/xJR5fCODn7I>

<https://charlestoncompetition.com/results-baroque-music-competition-2021/>

### **Peoria Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition**

Violinist **Elinor Detmer** won the Peoria Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition. YAC winners receive a cash prize and perform with the Peoria Symphony Orchestra at the Annual Student Concert and at the Peoria Symphony Guild Annual Spring Luncheon. The Peoria Symphony Orchestra is an American orchestra based in Peoria, Illinois conducted by George Stelluto. Founded in 1897 as Bradley University's Bradley Symphony Orchestra, it is the fourteenth oldest orchestra in the United States.

## **MARCH**

### **48th Annual National Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition**

The Carmen, Omaggio, and Zephyr String Quartets advance to the **Junior String Division Quarterfinals** of the **2021 Virtual Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition**. Watch for details to tune in May 14-16, 2021.

Omaggio String Quartet, coached by Mathias Tacke

**Tara Hagle, Elinor Detmer, Abigail Park, Jan Nedvetsky**

Carmen String Quartet, coached by Sang Mee Lee

**Katherine Nelson, Veronica Rokicki, Kimberly LaFranzo, Eytan Raviv**

Zephyr String Quartet, coached by Rodolfo Vieira

**Esme Arias-Kim, Isabel Chen, Sidney Lee, Mia Wimbiscus**

### **DuPage Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Audition Winners**

**Esme Arias-Kim**, Violin, Hoffman Estates, IL, student of Almita Vamos

**Veronica Rokicki**, Violin, Arlington Heights, IL, student of Almita Vamos

**Mia Wimbiscus**, Cello, Wilmette, IL, student of Hans Jensen

The DSO will award up to 6 cash prizes of \$200 each for the 2021 Young Artists Auditions. Selected winners will have their auditions shared via the DSO website and various social media platforms. If it proves feasible, selected winners will also have the opportunity to participate in a live-streamed recital during the spring. The DSO strives to encourage serious study and musical excellence among young musicians through its annual Young Artists Auditions. <https://www.dupagesymphony.org/yaa>

### **Madison Symphony Orchestra's 2021 Bolz Young Artist Competition**

**Carrie Wang**, violin student of Sang Mee Lee, received Honorable Mention in the highly competitive **Madison Symphony Orchestra's 2021 Bolz Young Artist Competition** on March 3. She received honorable mention in the **Final Forte** (final round). The four finalists performed their concerto selections with piano accompaniment for a panel of three judges.

Carrie also participated in the **La Crosse Symphony Orchestra Rising Stars Virtual Competition**, performing Mozart Violin Concerto No. 5 in A Major, Mvmt 1. in January. Carrie won **3rd place** in the final round.

### **Bach with a View International Competition and Festival for Young Artists**

**Clara Zhang**, piano student of Soo Young Lee, received first prize in the senior division of the **Bach with a View International Competition and Festival for Young Artists**. The competition focused entirely on works by Johann Sebastian Bach, in conjunction with Bach's birthday earlier in March. **Sheridan Music Studio - News**

### **FEBRUARY**

#### **Rembrandt Chamber Musicians Annual High School Chamber Music Competition**

Second Place: Carmen Quartet coached by Sang Mee Lee

**Katharine Nelson, Veronica Rokicki, Kimberly LaFranzo, Ethan Raviv**

**Honorable Mentions:**

Salice Piano Quartet

**Myroslav Mykhailenko, Carrie Wang, Angelica She** coached by Claudia Lasareff-Mironoff and Mark George

#### **Zephyr String Quartet**

**Esme Arias-Kim, Isabel Chen, Sidney Lee, Mia Wimbiscus** coached by Rodolfo Vieira

Founded in 1995, the Rembrandt Chamber Musicians Annual High School Chamber Music Competition is widely regarded as one of the premier competitions of its kind in the Midwest, drawing participants from the Music Institute of Chicago, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras, Midwest Young Artists, Merit School of Music, and a variety of public and private schools. In addition to the prestige of being named Rembrandt Young Artists, winning ensembles receive cash prizes, master class instruction from Rembrandt musicians, and performance opportunities throughout the region. Competition winners also participate in the RYA Outreach Program, bringing interactive educational sessions to Chicago-area schools that lack an established music program.

*Chicago National Chamber Music Competition*

**2021 OPEN DIVISION, Strings and Piano Category - Zephyr String Quartet and coach Rodolfo Vieira,** received Honorable Mention.

**Esme Arias-Kim, Isabel Chen, Sidney Lee, Mia Wimbiscus**

### **JANUARY 2021**

#### **American Protégé International Piano & Strings Competition 2021**

**Mark Zhu**, student of Yana Reznik, was chosen as a First Place Winner (Intermediate Category) of the American Protégé International Piano & Strings Competition 2021. Mark will be included in the Season 2022 Recitals at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. American Protégé is designed for young musicians, actors and singers on the path to a successful career. Let's hope the country gets healthy so a live concert will be on Mark's calendar next year.

#### **DePaul Concerto Festival for Young Performers**

**The DePaul Concerto Festival for Young Performers** was founded in 2003 to provide an opportunity for intermediate level pianists in the Community Music Division to perform with an orchestra. Repertoire was selected from sonatina movements and short piano pieces for which string accompaniments were available. Auditions were held and eight winners were selected to perform with the DePaul Youth String Orchestra. In 2004, the Festival was expanded to include violin students and also offered a wider range of repertoire for pianists. In 2006, cello and flute were added to the roster of instruments. To accommodate the increasing difficulty of repertoire, a decision was made to conduct the Festival with a full symphony orchestra. A partnership was formed in 2007 with the Oistrakh Symphony of Chicago under the direction of Mina Zikri. That year, thirteen winners had the privilege of performing a concerto movement in concert.

In 2008, the Festival was opened to students outside of the Community Music Division. Viola was added in 2009, clarinet in 2012, and oboe and bassoon in 2013. Today the DePaul Concerto Festival attracts nearly 150 participants in piano, strings, and woodwinds from the Midwest who audition for a chance to perform a movement of a concerto with the Oistrakh Symphony of Chicago.

## **Cello**

### **Honorable Mention with Distinction**

**Mia Wimbiscus**, 17, Wilmette, Hans Jorgen Jensen

### **Honorable Mention**

**Jan Vargas Nedvetsky**, 14, Wilmette, Horacio Contreras

## **Viola**

### **Honorable Mention**

**Sidney Lee**, 16, Arlington Heights, Davis King and Roland Vamos

## **Violin**

### **Winners**

**Sameer Agrawal**, 15, Chicago, Sang Mee Lee

**Elinor Detmer**, 16, Chicago, Almita Vamos Davis King

**Kelly Kim**, 16, Northbrook, Almita Vamos

### **Honorable Mention with Distinction**

**Sonya Jones**, 16, Chicago, Almita Vamos

### **Honorable Mention**

**Carrie Wang**, 16, Brookfield, WI, Sang Mee Lee

## **Walgreens National Virtual Concerto Competition**

Walgreens Corporation's annual sponsorship enables MYAC to provide an outstanding panel of judges, written performance evaluations and a performance goal to work towards over the winter holiday breaks. Over 200 exceptional young musicians from all corners of the country, participate in the **Midwest Young Artists Conservatory's 2020 Walgreens National Concerto Competition** at the end of December.

### **Open Junior division:**

#### **Early Music Category**

#### **Honorable Mention**

**Jan Vargas-Nedvetsky**, 14, Wilmette, cello, Dr. Horacio Contreras

### **Open Senior Division**

#### **Open Senior Division and Overall Open Division Winner**

#### **String Category Winner**

**Esme Arias-Kim**, 15, violin, Hoffman Estates, Almita Vamos

### **Open Senior Division**

#### **String Category Honorable Mention:**

**Isabel Chen**, 17, violin, Northbrook, Almita Vamos

### **Early Music Category Winner:**

**Isabel Chen**, 17, Northbrook, violin, Almita Vamos

## **2021 National YoungArts Foundation Competition**

The YoungArts' National Arts Competition program is an application-based award for emerging artists ages 15–18 or in grades 10–12. Selected through a blind adjudication process, winners are chosen for their caliber of artistic achievement in three categories: Finalist, Honorable Mention, and Merit. During this intensive program, Finalists across 10 artistic disciplines participate in classes and workshops with internationally recognized leaders in their fields. This year, the 2021 program, "National YoungArts Week +", will take place virtually.

Winner Honorable Mention: **Katya Moeller**, Classical Music/Violin

Winner Honorable Mention: **Ashley Kim**, Classical Music/Piano

*Honorable Mention: The YoungArts Honorable Mention award level recognizes work that demonstrates exceptional technique; a strong sense of artistry; and a depth of thinking/performance that exceeds the level of peers at this career stage.*

## **FALL 2020**

### **Young Artists Division at the 1st Harmonium OnlinePlus International Music Competition**

Congratulations to **Katya Moeller**, who earned 2nd Prize in the Young Artists Division at the 1st Harmonium OnlinePlus International Music Competition. It is an online comp in Yerevan, Armenia.

In addition, Katya also won the 1st prize at the **ODIN International Music Online Competition European Academic Artists Association.**

### **Illinois Music Education Association (IMLEA) District Festivals**

Each year the IMLEA District Festivals are well represented by Academy students. This year was no different, although it was a virtual experience due to COVID-19. Congratulations to the Academy Fellows in the District 7 Senior Orchestra. The students attended master classes that covered technique, performance tips, and the repertoire prepared for the festival.

**Kelly Kim**, Associate Violin Concertmaster

**Angelica She**, Principal Violist

**Stefan Westerberg**, Principal Cellist

The Illinois Music Education Association exists to advocate for universal access to comprehensive music education; deliver exemplary professional development for educators; and provide outstanding musical experiences for all Illinois learners facilitated by licensed music educators.

### **2020 Steinway Virtual Piano Competition**

The 2020 **STEINWAY VIRTUAL PIANO COMPETITION**, open to pianists ages 17 and under who are residents of the United States and Canada, is an extension of our unwavering commitment to the pursuit of superior artistic expression through piano performance during these unprecedented times.

Chicago Regionals | Division III

1st place - Zachary Guo (Soo Lee)

### **Illinois State Music Teachers Association (ISMTA)**

ISMTA Piano Competition is a single tier competition offered at 2 different locations, ISMTA Piano Competition NORTH and ISMTA Piano Competition SOUTH. Each competition is run independently with separate chairs and winners.

Junior Division

3rd Place - Zachary Guo (Soo Lee)

Senior Division

2nd Place - Kimiko Darcy (Matthew Hagle)

### **Music Teachers National Association (MTNA)**

The **MTNA National Competitions** are the most successful and prestigious student competitions in the country. Each year, thousands of students compete for top prizes and national recognition. The purpose of the Music Teachers National Association Performance competitions is to provide educational experiences for students and teachers and to recognize exceptionally talented young artists and their teachers in their pursuit of musical excellence.

The three-tiered Junior, Senior and Young Artist Performance Competitions begin with state competitions. The winners/representatives of each state's competitions advance to a video-only division competition. Division winners compete in the national finals at the annual MTNA National Conference.

2020 MTNA Illinois State Performance Competition Winners

Illinois Junior Piano Performance – 26 entries

Honorable Mention - **Zachary Guo** (Soo Lee)

Illinois Senior Piano Performance- 22 entries

Winner – **Ashley Kim** (James Giles, Matthew Hagle)

Honorable Mention – **Kimiko Darcy** (Matthew Hagle)

Illinois Senior Performance String-15 entries

Winner – **Isabella Brown**, violin (Almita Vamos)

Alternate – **Esme Arias-Kim**, violin (Almita Vamos)

Honorable Mention – **Sidney Lee**, viola (Roland Vamos and Davis King) and **Mia Wimbiscus** (Hans Jensen)

Iowa State Winner - **Katya Moeller**, violin (Almita Vamos) and West Central Division - Senior-Alternate Winner

### **2020 Sejong Virtual Music Competition**

The goals of the Sejong Music Competition are to discover talented young musicians and encourage them in their studies, and to also introduce traditional Korean music expressed through Western media. Through this competition we hope to increase the awareness and understanding of Korea's cultural heritage amongst the younger generations growing up in the United States so as to promote harmony among people of various ethnic backgrounds and bridge Asian and Western cultures. This year's competition was held on October 10 (Piano) and October 24 (Violin).

Congratulations to all of the Academy participants and winners! Please review the entire list of winners, as MIC is proud of Academy and Community Music School students in every division. This was a national competition this year since it is virtual. 135 entrants. 35 chosen to be placed and as finalists. Watch for a full listing on the MIC website.

Violin Senior Division

First - **Esme Arias-Kim** (Almita Vamos)

Second - **Abigail Park** (Almita Vamos)

Finalists: **Sonya Jones** (Almita Vamos and Davis King) and **Kelly Kim** (Almita Vamos)

Piano Senior Division

Honorable Mention: **Zachary Guo** (Soo Lee)

### **Lisker Music Foundation Young Artists Scholarship Competition**

The Lisker Music Foundation is a passionate non-profit organization which strives to support young artists by offering them the platform to showcase their brilliant abilities, while simultaneously infusing the community with world class music making. We are very excited to announce our 2nd annual Young Artist Scholarship Competition for Instrumentalists.

Academy students swept the 2020 Lisker Music Foundation Young Artists Scholarship Competition, with winners in all three instruments:

Violin - **Abigail Park**, student of Almita Vamos

Piano - **Zachary Guo**, student of Soo Young Lee

Cello - **Jan Nedvetsky**, student of Horacio Contreras

The students will each be awarded a scholarship and an opportunity to perform on the LMF series. In 2019, **Esme Arias-Kim** was the winner of the Violin LMF competition.

### **FROM THE TOP**

Violinist **Esme Arias-Kim**, student of Almita Vamos is proud to share another From the Top Performance! Esme performed in a virtual concert for From the Top on Oct 21 hosted by Peter Duggan. She played works by Saint Saens, Gershwin/Heifetz and Ysaye. Here are the links for the concert that can be viewed on [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#).

Violinist **Esme Arias-Kim**, student of Almita Vamos, is featured on a recent episode of radio show From the Top. She is interviewed by Orli Shaham and plays Estrellita with pianist Milana Pavchinskaya. Her portion can be heard at <https://tinyurl.com/y3y623m3>. In addition, Esme also played for a virtual masterclass with Nathan Cole, associate concertmaster with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. The masterclass was hosted by Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative, which Esme is a scholarship recipient.

### **Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series**

Violinist **Isabella Brown**, student of Almita and Roland Vamos, performed Wednesday, October 7, livestreaming on FB and WFMT from the Chicago Cultural Center.

### **SEPTEMBER**

#### **Chopin Foundation Piano Scholarship**

**Pianist Kimiko Darcy**, student of Matthew Hagle and James Giles, is the recipient of the **Chopin Foundation Piano Scholarship**. The purpose of the Chopin Foundation Scholarship Program is to support and encourage young, talented American pianists through up to four years of preparation for the National Chopin Piano Competition of the United States, which is held in Miami, Florida, every five years.