

**FEEL GOOD ABOUT THE FUTURE OF CLASSICAL MUSIC**  
**Contestants in the MGNM JMYAC 2015**

**Piano Division**

*First Place Winner* **Ishan Loomba** is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Desert Willow Family School. He played Mozart's Concerto No. 17 in G Major, K. 453, *I. Allegro* in the Competition. Ishan began piano lessons only 8 years ago. He loves swimming, camping, rock climbing, and hiking.

*Second Place Winner* **Stephanie Yang** is a Senior at Albuquerque Academy. For the Competition, she played Grieg's Concerto in A minor, op. 16. Stephanie began her music lessons at age 5 and is a two-time winner in the Honors Auditions sponsored by the Professional Music Teachers of New Mexico. Stephanie edits the school newspaper, participates in the Science Olympiad, swims and runs cross-country.

*Third Place Winner* **Jessica Lien** is a Freshman at the Southwest Learning Centers. She selected Ravel's Concerto in G Major, *M.83, II. Adagioassai, III. Presto* for the Competition. Jessica also studies Chinese and art. She has also won multiple piano, art, and academic awards. Her brother Ken was the 2014 winner of the JMYAC in piano.

**Margaret Downs** is a Senior at Albuquerque Academy where she is Oratory captain on the Speech and Debate Team. Margaret began playing piano at age 6. She played Mendelssohn's Capriccio Brillante in B Major/B minor, op. 22 in the Competition. Margaret has also participated in sports, academic competitions, and Student Council; she has logged many hours of community service.

**Natalia Kalugina** is a Sophomore at La Cueva High School. She started playing piano at age 6. Tchaikovsky's Concerto No. 1 in B flat minor, op. 23 was her selection for the JMYAC. Natalia has participated in many other competitions. She also organizes community service events and helps elderly people. Natalia swims competitively, enjoys skiing, and participates in the Science Olympiad.

**Conor McAvity** is a high school Senior at the United World College in Montezuma, NM. He was born in Bridgend, Wales and has played piano for 13 years. Conor played Beethoven's Concerto No. 1 in C Major, op. 15, *I. Allegro con brio* in the Competition. Primarily a soloist, he has participated in high school jazz bands, a wind ensemble, and a symphony orchestra.

**Stephanie Rifkin**, in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Albuquerque Academy, started piano when she was 9 years old. She played Shostakovich's Concerto No. 2 in F Major, op. 102, *I. Allegro* in the Competition. Stephanie has attended the Interlochen Center for the Arts summer program since 2012. She has been a member of the school chorus, has danced Flamenco for 7 years, and is on the school speech and debate team.

**Katherine Wang**, a Junior at Los Alamos High School, played Beethoven's Concerto No. 3, in C minor, op. 37, *I. Allegro con brio* in the Competition. She started playing piano at age 6. Katherine has been involved in local and regional musical competitions, as well as playing accompaniment for her church, singing, and playing guitar. She plays tennis and writes a fashion column for the *Los Alamos Monitor*.

**Hao Wei** is in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Mountain View Middle School. He was born in Shandong, China, emigrated to the U.S., and began his piano studies at age 7 in Los Alamos. Hao moved to Rio Rancho at age 10. He has participated in numerous competitions and played Grieg's Concerto in A minor, op. 16, *I. Allegro molto moderato* for the JMYAC.

**Sitong Xuis** is a high school Senior at the United World College. He selected Schumann's Concerto in A minor, op. 54, *I. Allegro motto moderato* in the Competition. Sitong began to play the piano at age 4. He has won the highest award in a Chinese national competition.

## Strings Division

*First Place Winner, Phoenix Avalon, violin*, is homeschooled in Santa Fe and in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. He played Saint-Saëns' Introduction & Rondo Capriccioso in A minor for Violin, op. 28 for the Competition on an Amati Bros. violin, c. 1617. Phoenix has won numerous awards and soloed with the Boulder Symphony and the NM Philharmonic. He has composed his first string quartet and enjoys philosophical debate and snowboarding. Phoenix serves as a mentor to the St. Michael's High School Orchestra.

*Second Place Winner, Maggie King, violin*, is a Junior at the New Mexico School for the Arts in Santa Fe. She began playing the violin at age 3½. Mozart's Concerto No. 5 in A Major for Violin, K.219, *I. Allegro aperto* was her selection for the Competition. Maggie began solo recitals at age 7 and has been a member of the Santa Fe Youth Symphony organization for 9 years. She mentors many younger students. In the summers of 2013 and 2014, Maggie participated in the Preludio Summer Program at Ithaca College (NY).

*Third Place Winner, Sam Barrett, cello*, a Sophomore at East Mountain High School, performed Lalo's Concerto in D minor for Cello, *I. Prelude: Lento-Allegro Maestoso* for the Competition. He began playing the cello at age 9 and is a member of the Albuquerque Youth Symphony Program. This was his second year in the Competition after he was inspired by the first year: "enough motivation for a lifetime," he said.

**Tatiana Allensworth, viola**, is a Sophomore at Southwest Aeronautics, Mathematics & Science Academy, is the Principal Violist for the Albuquerque Youth Symphony, and a member of their Premier Chamber Trio. She has been involved with the AYS program since 2007. Before that Tatiana participated in the UNM Suzuki Program. For the Competition she played Telemann's Concerto in G. Major for Viola, *III. Andante, IV. Presto*.

**Colleen Chlastawa, viola**, is a Senior at Rio Rancho High School. She began studying viola in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and has played with the Albuquerque Youth Symphony since grade 6. Colleen was selected for the All-State symphonic orchestra for four straight years, has performed many times in district solo and ensemble festivals, and has taught viola lessons. She swims competitively, enjoys singing, and is an avid reader. Colleen played Von Weber's Andante and Rondo ungarese in C minor for Viola and Orchestra, J.79 for the Competition.

**Savannah DeLillo, violin**, is a homeschooled high school Junior. She started playing the violin at age 7. Savannah has soloed three times at the New Mexico Suzuki Institute Honors Recital and was first violinist for the Albuquerque Youth Orchestra and Symphony for 2 years. As a homeschooled student, she is enrolled in College Plus!, a dual high school/college program through which she is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Humanities with a minor in music. Savannah played Bruch's Concerto No. 1 in C minor for Violin, op. 26, *I. Vorspiel: Allegro moderato* for the Competition.

**Liam Frye-Mason, cello**, is a homeschooled high school Junior in Cedar Crest, NM. He also takes classes at CNM and UNM. Liam has played the cello since grade 5 and has been in the Albuquerque Youth Symphony program for 6 years. He is an intern/volunteer at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History. For the Competition, Liam played Elgar's Concerto in E minor for Cello, op. 85, *I. Adagio*.

**Joseph Grogan, violin**, is a straight A student in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Holy Child Catholic School in Tijeras, NM. He has studied violin for 8 years and plays the guitar. Joe participates in Math Counts, Science Fair, Latin League, and Geography Bee. He loves soccer, basketball, and baseball. For the Competition, Joe played Kabelevsky's Concerto in C Major for Violin, op. 48, *III. Vivace giacoso*.

**Abby Herrick, violin**, is a Sophomore at Cottonwood Classical Prep. in Albuquerque. She began playing the violin in grade 1, started the AYS program in grade 6, and is now the concertmaster for the Albuquerque Youth Symphony. Abby has attended several prestigious summer programs. Bruch's Concerto No. 1 in C minor for Violin, op. 26, *III. Finale: Allegro energico* was her selection for the Competition.

**Irene Kwon, cello**, is a Sophomore at Los Alamos High School. She began playing the cello at age 9 and has participated in music festivals and the All-State Orchestra. Irene has also played the piano for 7 years. She is an active member of the National Honor Society, LAHS speech and debate team, and Key Club. Irene

volunteers regularly at the community senior center. For the Competition, she played Saint-Saëns' Concerto No. 1 in A minor for Cello, op. 33, *I. Allegro non troppo*.

**Noah Silver, cello**, is a Senior at Menaul School. He began playing the cello at age 8. After an injury at age 12, he used the cello as his occupational and physical therapies. He regularly volunteers at Carrie Tingley Hospital, the Shriner's Christmas party, and the annual Kids Supporting Kids fundraiser for pediatric cancer patients. He performs at school talent exhibitions, was a member of the All-State orchestra for 2 years, and made first chair in his sophomore year. He performed Lalo's Concerto in D minor for Cello, I. Prelude: Lento – Allegro Maestoso for the Competition.

**Bryan Steiner, cello**, is a homeschooled high school Junior in Las Cruces, NM. He began violin lessons at age 5 and switched to the cello a year later. Although Bryan participated in various Albuquerque Youth Symphony orchestras, his family moved to Las Cruces 3 years ago. He has been a member of the New Mexico State University Orchestra since grade 9 and now plays with a local cello ensemble. Bryan is also involved with the All-State Orchestra and various music festivals. He enjoys reading, video games, and writing computer programs. For the Competition, he played Saint-Saëns' Concerto No. 1 in A minor for Cello, op. 33, *I. Allegro non troppo*. Bryan plays duets with his sister Laura, a violist, violinist, and the 2011 winner of the JMYAC.