



**Press Release**

***For Immediate Release***

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**2023 Walgreens National Concerto Competition Winners Results  
Announced!**

*On Friday, Dec 29 & Saturday, Dec 30, 2023, the Midwest Young Artists Conservatory hosted the annual Walgreens National Concerto Competition at their musical center in Highwood, IL.*



Over 200 exceptional young musicians from all corners of the country competed in Midwest Young Artist Conservatory's 2023 Walgreens National Concerto Competition on December 29 and 30, 2023 at the MYAC Center in Fort Sheridan, Highwood, IL. Entries in String, Piano, Winds, and Vocal Categories in both MYAC and Open divisions yielded one overall winner who will solo with the MYAC Symphony Orchestra in February. Each division winner, along with honorable mentions in all categories within the two divisions are also listed on the website [here](#).

The Walgreens concerto competition has grown from approximately 35 competing young artists in 1994, to a record 212 in 2023, making it the largest and most comprehensive of its kind in the Midwest. The competition has both a Junior Division (grades 8 and under) and a Senior Division (grades 9 through 12). Two panels of distinguished experts representing String, Piano, Vocal and Wind Instrument Categories judge the participants, delivering individual comments on each performance. MYAC annually provides students with preeminent judges, a video recording of their performance, written performance evaluations and an inviting and nurturing environment in which to participate.

Overall winners will perform on **Saturday, February 24, 2024** at **Northwestern University's Pick-Staiger Concert Hall**. Category winners will perform at MYAC's Music at The Fort Recital on **Sunday, January 28, 2024**. Winning soloists may also be selected for performance opportunities with area professional and community orchestras.

## 2023 Walgreens National Concerto Competition Results

### MYAC JUNIOR ORCHESTRA DIVISION

- **OVERALL JUNIOR WINNER: Ingrid Updegraff**, violin
- Strings Winner: **Ingrid Updegraff**, violin
  - Strings Honorable Mentions (*listed alphabetically by last name*):
    - **Rebekah Kim**, violin
    - **Ryan Lee**, violin
    - **Evan Mueller**, violin
    - **Alexandra Paschos**, violin
- Piano Winner: **Victoria Garcia-Ruiz**, piano
- Other Instrument Winner: **Ariana Thorarinson**, bassoon
  - Other Instrument Honorable Mention

- **Davide Andrizzi**, trumpet
- Early Music Winner: **Theodore Deters**, violin
  - Early Music Honorable Mentions (*listed alphabetically by last name*):
    - **Evan Mueller**, violin
    - **Jason Stern**, violin

#### **MYAC SENIOR ORCHESTRA DIVISION**

- **OVERALL SENIOR WINNER: Kay Ito**, viola
- Strings Winner: **Kay Ito**, viola
  - Strings Honorable Mentions (*listed alphabetically by last name*):
    - **Momo Frederickson**, violin
    - **Jocelyn Gao**, cello
    - **Javier Irizarry**, violin
    - **Landon Kim**, violin
    - **Oliver Mah**, cello
    - **Callia Murray**, viola
    - **Cecilia O'Malley**, cello
    - **Elizabeth Romanyuk**, violin
    - **Vishal Subramanian**, violin
    - **Kai Werlinksy**, violin
    - **Bryce Williams**, cello
- Piano Winner: **Elizabeth Romanyuk**, piano
  - Piano Honorable Mentions (*listed alphabetically by last name*):
    - **Jonah Burton**, piano
    - **Zachariah Elliot**, piano
    - **Jocelyn Gao**, piano
- Voice Winner: **Faith John**, voice
- Other Instrument Winner: **Tabitha Mo**, flute
  - Other Instrument Honorable Mentions (*listed alphabetically by last name*):

- **Anna Edgcomb**, oboe
- **Isabel Edgcomb**, flute
- **Tanya Ganesh**, oboe
- **Tabitha Mo**, flue (*Nielson*)
- **Max Walaszek**, bassoon
- Early Music Winner: **Julian Kolthammer**, french horn
  - Early Music Honorable Mentions (*listed alphabetically by last name*):
    - **Christine Chah**, violin
    - **Vishal Subramanian**, violin

**OVERALL OPEN DIVISION GRAND WINNER:** Amelia Zitoun, cello

*\*The Overall Open Division Grand Winner is decided between the Open Junior and Open Senior Division winners.\**

#### **OPEN JUNIOR DIVISION**

- **OVERALL JUNIOR WINNER: Lin Tokura**, violin
- Strings Winner: **Lin Tokura**, violin
  - Strings Honorable Mentions (*listed alphabetically by last name*):
    - **Cameron Renshaw**, cello
    - **Ella Wimbiscus**, cello
- Piano Winner: **Christina Sung**, piano
  - Piano Honorable Mentions (*listed alphabetical by last name*):
    - **Eric Wang**, piano
    - **Dylan Zhang**, piano
- Other Instrument Winner: **Emily Xu**, flute
- Early Music Winner: **Victoria Lyang**, piano

#### **OPEN SENIOR DIVISION**

- **OVERALL SENIOR WINNER: Amelia Zitoun**, cello
- Strings Winner: **Amelia Zitoun**, cello

- Strings Honorable Mentions (*listed alphabetically by last name*):
  - **Christy Kim**, violin
  - **Clark Snavely**, violin
  - **Lucy Wu**, cello
  - **Aiden Yu**, violin
- Piano Winner: **Freya Pang**, piano
  - Piano Honorable Mention
    - **Zarin Mehta**, piano
- Voice Winner: **Audi Ellis**, voice
- Other Instrument Winner: **Grace Kim**, flute
  - Other Instrument Honorable Mention
    - **Hannah Cho**, oboe
- Early Music Winner: **Clark Snavely**, violin

The focus of the competition is educational, providing a clear goal for students to prepare for and to learn from. In the words of MYAC founder and executive director, Allan Dennis: "It is important to learn that setting a goal and following through is the most basic step in 'winning.' Those students who use the Walgreens Concerto Competition to prepare their work to the highest level are learning life lessons that they can use in any work situation. It is in setting high goals for ourselves that we learn who we really are."

*MYAC's orchestral, chamber music, jazz and choral programs serve students from grade school beginners through advanced pre-college performers. For tickets to any of our future concerts and events, or more information about MYAC's programs, visit <https://mya.org/> or call (847) 926-9898.*