



Press Release

For Immediate Release

January 28, 2023

Writer Contact: Nina Badagliacco, Administrative Marketing Intern, (847) 926-9898, nina@mya.org

2022 Walgreens Competition Winners Announced, hosted by Midwest Young Artists Conservatory

HIGHWOOD, IL. - Over 200 exceptional young musicians from all corners of the country competed in Midwest Young Artist Conservatory's 2022 Walgreens National Concerto Competition from December 28 to December 30 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 the spring. First, second, and third prizes, along with honorable mentions in all categories within the two divisions are also named on the website.

The Walgreens concerto competition has grown from approximately 35 competing young artists in 1994, to a record 226 in 2022, 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). Four panels of distinguished experts representing String, Piano, Vocal and Wind Instrument Categories judge the participants, delivering individual comments on each performance. Walgreens Corporation's annual sponsorship enables MYAC to provide 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 at the February 25, 2023 MYAC concert at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall at Northwestern University, as well as MYAC's Music at The Fort Recital on February 12, 2023. Winning soloists may also be selected for performance opportunities with area professional and community orchestras.

2022 Walgreens National Concerto Competition Winners:

OVERALL OPEN DIVISION GRAND WINNER: Lauren Yoon, violin (The Overall Open Division Grand Winner is decided between the Open Junior and Open Senior Division winners).

JUNIOR OPEN DIVISION

- **OVERALL WINNER: Maxwell Brown, violin**
- Early Music Winner: Li Wen Lim (need to know instrument)
- Early Music Honorable Mention: Aiden Yu, violin
- Piano/Harp Winner: Eric Wang, piano
- Piano/Harp Honorable Mentions: Kento Sugiyama, piano; Michele Xu, piano
- String Winners: Maxwell Brown, violin
- String Honorable Mentions: Aiden Yu, violin; Ella Wimbiscus, cello; Emily Chen, violin; Neal Eisfeldt, violin; Nesya Fertel, violin; Cara Wang, cello
- Voice Winner: Dianne Park, voice
- Winds Winner: Karen Kobayashi, flute

SENIOR OPEN DIVISION

- **OVERALL WINNER: Lauren Yoon, violin**
- Early Music Winner: Aleksandra Radovic, viola
- Early Music Honorable Mentions: Simon Updegraff, cello; Jan Vargas Nedvetsky, cello
- Piano/Harp Winners: Kashyap Prasad, piano
- Piano/Harp Honorable Mentions: Angelina Chang, piano; Ethan Zheng, piano; Clara Zhang, piano; Joseph Gallwas, piano; Zarin Mehta, piano
- String Winner: Lauren Yoon, violin
- String Honorable Mentions: Joshua Thrush, double bass; Nathan Choe, cello; Brandon Leonard, cello; Maurice Newman, cello; Christy Kim, violin; Sofia Radovic, viola; Maxine Gimbe, double bass; Clark Snavelly, violin; Hyerin Eom, violin; William Tan, cello; Ezekiel Sokoloff, violin; Nazeeh Shahid, viola
- Voice Winner: Faye Steinfink
- Voice Honorable Mentions: Vaughn Holleran, voice; Hazel Kim, voice
- Wind Winner: Hanna Oyasu, flute

SENIOR MYAC ORCHESTRA DIVISION

- **OVERALL WINNER: Miriam Kessler, harp**
- Early Music Winner: Javier Irizarry, violin
- Early Music Honorable Mentions: Tanya Ganesh, oboe; Lydia Kessler, harp

- Piano/Harp Winner: Miriam Kessler, harp
- String Winner: Kay Ito, viola
- String Honorable Mentions: Ruth Kim, violin; Cecelia O'Malley, cello
- Wind Winner: Tabatha Mo, flute

JUNIOR MYAC ORCHESTRA DIVISION

- **OVERALL WINNER: Callia Murray, viola**
- Early Music Winner: Eliana Song, violin
- String Winner: Callia Murray, viola
- String Honorable Mention: Oliver Mah, cello
- Voice Winner: Faith John, voice

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 classical, 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.