



American Protege is advancing the careers of our participants and winners as well as promoting their talents. Our program seeks to encourage more young musicians to perform and grow. We believe the program offers many benefits to participants and helps to build their confidence, strengthen their performance skills, and, ultimately, realize their dreams. By being introduced to new audiences on stage in New York City, one of the world's grandest performance venues, participants can expect to have a memorable experience.

This year our organization continues to grow and our International Piano and Strings, Romantic Music, Concerto and Music Talent Competitions attracted the largest number of talented applicants on record. Our success and reputation as one of the most prestigious competitions can be attributed to several factors including highly qualified and acclaimed judges with strong musical backgrounds, friendly staff, a renowned recital stage and, foremost, elite participants from all over the world.

Our Organizational Committee is extremely grateful to all the music schools and conservatories, where our participants acquire their music knowledge and receive careful nurturing. We would also like to thank the music teachers whose dedication has been indispensable in creating a strong and solid music foundation for the young artists.

Finally, we thank all the parents for their support in organizing these exciting events and for giving their children an opportunity to get in touch with the amazing world of classical music.

Congratulations to all the winners!

Warm regards,

Organizational Committee

*The Winners' Recital*

*Saturday, December 19, 2015*

*At 7:30 in the Evening*



*Weill Recital Hall*

*At*

*Carnegie Hall*

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**TO**

**ALL WINNERS**

**FROM**

**THE AMERICAN PROTÉGÉ**

**ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE**

## December 19, 2015 Recital Participants



**Maricel Obieta**, 40, hails from a small city within the National Capital Region of the Philippines. Music is one of her passions and this was manifested throughout her life since singing in school, in church, and in company choirs. She also sang for private events such as weddings, funerals, receptions, anniversaries, corporate functions, and Catholic feast day celebrations. Eventually, she discovered her gift of a classical voice when she took singing lessons at the Philippine Opera Company in 2007. From 2011 until today, she trains and hones her light lyric soprano voice under the coaching of tenor

Lemuel dela Cruz, who is a faculty member of the Conservatory of Music at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila.



**Suhyoung (Theresa) Lee**, 15, was born in Seoul in Korea. Ms. Lee started learning to sing at the age of fifteen at Gracias Music Preparatory School in Daegeon. She studied Voice with Olga Makarina (Soprano, currently working in The Metropolitan Opera Theater), Gloria Parker (Mezzo soprano, currently the president at G. Parker Associates), Virginia Grasso (Soprano, currently teaching students at studios both in Midtown and Upper Manhattan) and Peter Castaldi (Baritone, sang many roles with Opera Roanoke and many requiems) at Mahanaim in Huntington. She has performed in

Hospitals, Schools as visiting concerts in New York, Nagaland and Haiti. She sang at the spring concert in Mahanaim Auditorium.

## Programme

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|----|---|------------------|
| 1  | O Sole Mio<br><b>Sophia Parigi, Classical</b>                             | Eduardo di Capua |
| 2  | O Mio babino Caro<br><b>Abby Fletcher, Opera Aria</b>                     | Puccini          |
| 3  | Un bel di vedremo<br><b>Maggie Liu, Opera Aria</b>                        | Puccini          |
| 4  | Adele's Laughing Song<br><b>Laya Madison Koder, Opera Aria</b>            | Strauss          |
| 5  | Santa Lucia<br><b>Harrison Sturgeon, Folk/Traditional</b>                 | Teodoro Cottrau  |
| 6  | Night on the Pairie<br><b>Mun Hoi Fan, Folk/Traditional</b>               | Xinjiang         |
| 7  | Phantom of the Opera, Think of Me<br><b>Daleyna Dunlap, Broadway</b>      | Lloyd Webber     |
| 8  | Naughty<br><b>Ria Chhabra, Broadway</b>                                   | Tim Minchin      |
| 9  | At Last<br><b>Elias Tyson Venegas, Broadway</b>                           | Etta James       |
| 10 | Prince Ali<br><b>Jacob Skiba, Broadway</b>                                | Alan Menken      |
| 11 | Vanilla Ice Cream<br><b>Mia Mancera, Broadway</b>                         | Bock             |
| 12 | Part of Your World<br><b>Kai Alivia Koren, Broadway</b>                   | Alan Menken      |
| 13 | The Secret Garden, Hold On<br><b>Grace Mozitis, Broadway</b>              | Lucy Simon       |
| 14 | Phantom of the Opera, Think of Me<br><b>Ziyao (Chelsea) Guo, Broadway</b> | Lloyd Webber     |
| 15 | Una donna a quindici anni<br><b>Emily Muramoto, Classical</b>             | Mozart           |
| 16 | Lascia Ch'io Pianga<br><b>Aimee Banks, Opera Aria</b>                     | Handel           |
| 17 | Notte e giorno<br><b>Niko Mancera, Opera Aria</b>                         | Mozart           |
| 18 | La pastorella dell Alphi<br><b>Aleesha Yan, Classical</b>                 | Rossini          |
| 19 | Perduta ho la Speranza<br><b>Stephanie Chee, Classical</b>                | Stefano Donaudy  |
| 20 | Ah, donate il caro sposo<br><b>Gwyneth Campbell, Opera Aria</b>           | Rossini          |

# Programme

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|----|--|--------------------|
| 21 | Les Berceaux<br><b>Priya Radhakrishnan, Classical</b>                    | Gabriel Faure      |
| 22 | Where'er you walk<br><b>Katherine Langelier, Opera Aria</b>              | Handel             |
| 23 | The Vagabond<br><b>Lucas Guzman, Classical</b>                           | Vaughan Williams   |
| 24 | Gloria VI in D Major, Domine Deus<br><b>Emma Richardson, Opera Aria</b>  | Vivaldi            |
| 25 | Alcina, Torna Mia Vagghgiar<br><b>Rebecca Reavley, Classical</b>         | Handel             |
| 26 | Mo Li Hua<br><b>Cheryl Bains, Folk/Traditional</b>                       | Folk Song          |
| 27 | Fly Me to The Moon<br><b>Elias Tyson Venegas, Broadway</b>               | Frank Sinatra      |
| 28 | Someone Like You<br><b>Savannah Rae Almeida, Broadway</b>                | Frank Wildhorn     |
| 29 | Les Miserables, I Dreamed A Dream<br><b>Casandra Ortiz, Broadway</b>     | Schönberg          |
| 30 | Someone to Watch Over Me<br><b>Emily Muramoto, Broadway</b>              | Gershwin           |
| 31 | The Girl in 14G<br><b>Anna Wojcik, Broadway/Jazz</b>                     | Jeanine Tesori     |
| 32 | Astonishing<br><b>Claire Diamond, Broadway</b>                           | Jason Howland      |
| 33 | Till There Was You<br><b>Nicole Dostanic, Broadway</b>                   | Meredith Willson   |
| 34 | Someone Like You<br><b>Katryna Marttala, Broadway</b>                    | Frank Wildhorn     |
| 35 | Coachman, do not urge the horses on<br><b>Kristina Petric, Classical</b> | Feldman            |
| 36 | Der Hölle Rache<br><b>Ying Yu, Opera Aria</b>                            | Mozart             |
| 37 | Così fan tutte, Come Scoglio<br><b>Rachel Eve Holmes, Opera Aria</b>     | Mozart             |
| 38 | Che gelida manina<br><b>Xiwen Li, Opera Aria</b>                         | Puccini            |
| 39 | Griselda, Per la gloria d'adorarvi<br><b>Maricel Obieta, Classical</b>   | Giovanni Bononcini |
| 40 | Mein Herr Marquis<br><b>Suhyoung Lee, Opera Aria</b>                     | Strauss            |

## December 19, 2015 Recital Participants

**Rachel Eve Holmes**, 28, is an exciting young soprano, recently described as, "expressive and subtle, with a stunning instrument." A Georgia native, Holmes' performing career has taken her to Bruges, Belgium; Shanghai, China; Novafeltria, Italy, as well as all over the United States. A highly decorated soprano, Rachel Eve has been named winner of the Schubert Club Competition, the Kenwood Symphony Orchestra Competition, Wisconsin Public Radio's Neale Silva Competition, and the Schuyler Foundation for Career Bridges Competition. Rachel Eve has performed with Opera Lancaster, The Kenwood Symphony, Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh, Opera Fort Collins, Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre, the Intermezzo Festival, Opera for the Young, La Musica Lirica, Loveland Opera Theatre, Fort Collins Symphony, Fresco Opera Theatre, The Ralph Opera Center, and The New England Conservatory Undergraduate Opera Studio. Favorite roles include Norina, Rosina, Frasquita, Pamina, Susanna, Marzeline, Beth March, L'Enfant, and Mimi.



**Li Xiwen**, 30, is now working as a Music teacher in Shenzhen, China. Li graduated from the Music Department of Xinan University in 2007, and began taking classes from Mrs. Lu Lanqing, a well-known Chinese Soprano, in 2009. Li takes his music teaching job very seriously, and is often invited to participate in many concerts. He won honorable mention in the first Chinese Peafowl Award in 2009, and participated in the Hong Kong International Vocal Music Competition (Opera Group) and received an Excellence Award. Li has attended an International Opera Vocal Master Class held by Pietro Ballo, a well-known Italian tenor.



## December 19, 2015 Recital Participants



**Kristina Petrić**, 20, was born in Italy. Her musical education began at age 12. She completed a Musical high school, and she is currently studying conducting. Kristina began taking singing lessons in September 2014 with Professor Ana Lačković. Ms. Petrić has received many awards in national and international music competitions, in solo and chamber music. She has participated in numerous concerts as an instrumentalist, singer and conductor in the most important halls in Belgrade and throughout Serbia, such as the Belgrade National Theatre, Kolarac Hall, Belgrade Philharmonic hall... For these ten months since she is learning solo singing Kristina won the first prize in the competition Mita Topalovic and special first prize at the festival Amadeus, Belgrade. Kristina has received Scholarship of the City of Belgrade in 2011 and 2013 for excellent grades and contribution to art for young artists.

**Ying Yu**, 27, is a vocalist from China. Ms. Yu holds a B.A. in Music Education with a focus in Vocal performance, obtained from the AnHui Normal University in China. Ms. Yu has received numerous awards throughout her career, including First Prize in the Fifth Beijing Youth Singer vocal competition, and Second Prize in the seventh AnHui Vocal competition. In October of 2013, Ms. Yu was invited to take a master class with renowned artist Lu Lanqing in the Beijing Art Center. Ms. Yu joined the Tri-Cities Chorus for the performance for Magic Flute, USA, in March of 2012. She has worked as a teacher at a local community school, teaching Piano, Solfeggio and Ear Training.



## December 19, 2015 Recital Participants

**Sophia Parigi**, 10, is from New Orleans. Sophia is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Sacred Heart and also studied in Italy to learn Italian - in her father's country. Sophia nationally ranked 98% and received merit in Duke University TIP. Sophia began music class young and can now play mid-level piano studying with Joseph Pham. In 2013, she started voice lessons with Melanie Hirschfeld. Sophia loves melodic sounds which gives her great joy to share it with others. Last year, Sophia performed over 30 times at festivals and senior centers. Sophia has competed and won top awards through Louisiana Kids, Inc., 1<sup>st</sup> place for vocals at the Ronald McDonald House Charities and sang for the Fourth World Movement to help the poor. This spring, Sophia performed as a vocal-soloist at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival.



**Abby Fletcher**, 11, shows an amazing interest in operatic arias. She has performed in many different venues, including musical theatre. Her latest accomplishments include performing in two Prather Entertainment Group productions. She participated in one as Amaryliss in 'The Music Man', and also was featured in 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'. She has performed and won several talent shows and shares her talent at local festivals and holiday shows. Abby has been studying with her vocal teachers for 2 years and attends a Performing Art School. Her goal is one day to be a student at Julliard.

**Maggie Liu**, 12, is a lyric soprano, violinist, flautist, and pianist. She was born in San Diego, CA. Maggie expressed strong interest in music at a young age and started taking piano lessons at 4 and a half years old. When she was 11, Maggie began to study singing. She loves opera, classical music, & musicals, and can sing in Italian, English, Chinese, & German. Maggie has participated in many recitals, festivals, and competitions for piano. She enjoys performing for others. She plays violin in the Inland Valley Youth Symphony and plays flute in her school's wind ensemble. After about one year of vocal study, Maggie began to sing in public. She performs locally for senior residents and at library recitals. In 2015, Maggie was selected to sing "O mio babbino caro" in the 2nd American Chinese Youth Art Festival in San Diego, CA. In 2014, as a winner of American Protégé International Competition of Romantic Music 2013, Maggie performed at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York City.





## December 19, 2015 Recital Participants



**Laya Koder**, 12, has been singing since she uttered her first words. At the age of nine, she was enrolled in professional voice lessons at the Academy of Music in Richmond, VA. In a short three year span, she has performed at various concerts, recitals and venues, including singing the national anthem at numerous sporting events – most notably, Virginia Commonwealth University baseball games, University of Richmond basketball games and at home matches for the Flying Squirrels, a minor league baseball team in Richmond, VA. In addition to being an honor student, she also loves acting and singing in community theater, having won roles in *Seussical* and *The Music Man*. She started competing in national and international competitions in 2015 and in March, she won the BMW Lions Bland Contest.

**Harrison Sturgeon**, 8, is a homeschooler from Gloucester, MA. He studies voice with Yeghishe Manucharyan. He has performed as a vocal soloist and drummer in the Boston/North Shore area and will be appearing as Young Shrek in the North Shore Music Theatre's production of Shrek in July of 2015. Harrison was also chosen as a winner in the American Fine Arts Festival and will be performing in Carnegie Hall in October of 2015. In addition to music, Harrison loves baseball, soccer, basketball, painting, spending time with family and friends, and his pug dog, Marzipan.



**Mun-Hoi Fan**, 12, was born in Singapore, and began studying voice at the age of 6. He came under the tutelage of Ms Ai-Ming Khor at the age of 7. In 2013, Mun-Hoi achieved Distinction for his Grade 5 Singing from Trinity College London, and he went on to score another Distinction for Grade 6 Singing from Trinity College London in the following year. In 2015, he was also awarded the Singapore top scorer for Grade 6 Singing by Trinity College London. Mun-Hoi has performed at numerous recitals and community concerts with one of Singapore's top vocal groups, Vocal Associates. He also sang for 2 consecutive years at Chingay, Singapore's largest street fiesta, for more than 80,000 international audience. Mun-Hoi's repertoire comprises classical, musical theatre and folk.

## December 19, 2015 Recital Participants

**Claire Diamond**, 16, is from Lockport, Illinois and lives with her parents, and seven siblings. She has a passion for singing and acting. Claire has studied voice for six years and currently studies under Kristin Young. Last August, Claire placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Rialto Square Theatre's signing competition, Rialto Idol Junior in Joliet, Illinois. Musical theatre has always been an important part of Claire's life, and she has been a part of many musicals. Her favorite roles include the Stepmother in *Cinderella*, Rona Lisa Peretti in *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof*.

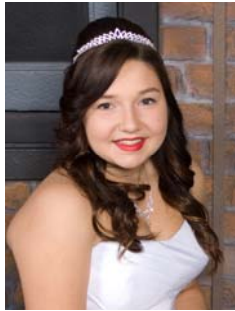


**Nicole Dostanic**, 17, is a student at Woodbridge High School in Irvine, CA. Passionate about singing, she has studied voice since she was twelve. Nicole enjoys singing Broadway and Classical music. As such, she continues to polish her art form studying music with renowned opera singer Dubravka Zubovic. This year Nicole finished the Solo Voice program for London's International Music Academy, Associated Board of the Royal School of Music. She recently completed the California Music Study Program Certificate of Merit earning excellency on the highest level of the program. As a result, Nicole performed at the annual convention for the Music Teachers' Association of California in San Jose. She began singing competitively last year, winning 2nd place two consecutive years (2014 and 2015) at the MTAC Orange Coast Cities Branch Baroque Festival. Nicole is the youngest member of the elite Serbian Orthodox Church choir, Istocnik.

**Katryna Marttala**, 16, is a student and aspiring performer. She is a Musical Theatre major at the North East School Of The Arts in San Antonio, Texas. Growing up in a military family and moving very frequently, it was always hard for her to ever feel at home, so she found hers on the stage. She began her vocal training at the age of 4 and currently trains in classical and musical theatre voice. Some of her favorite performance credits include Ursula (*The Little Mermaid Jr.*), Norma (*Carrie: The Musical*), Grace Farrell (*Annie Jr.*), Prince John (*Robin Hood*), and Tracy Turnblad (*Hairspray Jr.*). She would like to thank her family for their never-ending love and support, her directors and mentors for pushing her to take chances and learn new things, and vocal coach Irma Taute for helping her find her voice and spread her wings.



## December 19, 2015 Recital Participants



**Savannah Rae**, 15, is a High School student at Pembroke Pines Charter High School in Pembroke Pines, Fl. She has been singing since she was 5. She studies voice and records with Mike Soper music, in Wellington Florida. She was won competitions and was the 2012 South Florida Fair Kids Vocal winner. She was also chosen as a finalist to perform the National Anthem for the Miami Dolphins and was a Semi Finalist for the XFactor. She was a winner of Wellington Idol and has competed in many local and State competitions. She performs in many local theatre productions and local charity events.

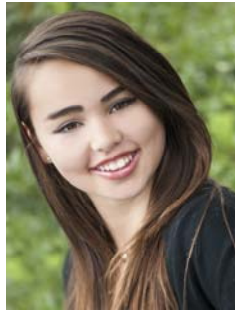
**Cassandra Ortiz**, 14, has been a vocal student with Michael Soper for over a year. She is continuing her musical journey at Manhattan School of Music. She has a wide range of 3 octaves that crosses over from alto through soprano and sings various genres of music. She is also currently working on an original song, co-written by Michael Soper. Cassie is a musical theatre performer at the Fort Lauderdale Children's Theatre (FLCT). She has been a part of FLCT's Glee Show Choir for three years in a row. She also does musical productions with FLCT as well. For the past 2 years, Cassie has auditioned and made it into the first round of South Florida's Starz of the Future. She, also for the past 2 years, was a finalist in Tri-Rail's Kids Got Talent. In 2015, she was 1st runner up in Tri-Rail's Kids Got Talent.



**Anna Wojcik**, 15, is a soprano with a true passion for singing. She was born in Toronto and is currently a student at Cawthra Park Secondary School's vocal program. Anna started taking singing lessons at the age of nine with Mrs. Kinga Mitrowska. She has been improving throughout the years by participating in and winning many competitions including the International Festival of Religious Song, the Festival of Polish Song, the Annual Carol Competition, the Young Talents Competition, the CNE Rising Star Competition, the Talent Nation Rising Star Showcase, and Hidden Talent Canada. Anna performed in various gala concerts one of which was the concert, "Dotyk Milosci" with Krzysztof Jedrysik.

## December 19, 2015 Recital Participants

**Daleyna Dunlap**, 12, has had a busy life. Starting at the age of three, she quickly became an accomplished and competitive figure skater and ballet dancer. By the age of six, it was obvious that her greatest gift of all was her voice and her caring personality. From that point forward, she has been sharing this gift with the world. She has collected innumerable awards in voice including her most recent first place title in classical voice in the Western regionals for NATS. When she is not singing, she is gracing the stage of our local theatre where she has secured many lead roles and parts in various musicals and performances. She is also involved in various programs where she shares her gift with the less fortunate. Her voice repertoire is diverse and eclectic ranging from Broadway to Gospel; however, classical voice is her passion.



**Ria Chhabra**, 6, resides in Singapore. Currently, she is a student of Mr Roderick Teh at Madison Academy of Music. She began primary school this year as a student of St Margaret's Primary School. Ria has always shown a keen interest in music and began formal piano and singing lessons in May 2014. She has completed all her classical singing, musical theatre and piano examinations with high distinctions to date from both ABRSM (the exam board of the Royal Schools of Music) and LCM (London College of Music). In addition to performing in recitals at her music academy, she has also performed at expo and atrium shows. She is a hardworking and musically inclined child who also enjoys ballet, jazz dancing, taekwondo and composing her own stories and musical compositions.

**Elias Tyson Venegas**, 9, is a singer with an old soul and a young heart. He loves to sing and has been jazzing up songs since he could sing his ABCs. Tyson loves to also play piano and drums, dance and write songs. He won 2013's British Columbia Junior Talent and Pacific National Exhibition's Star Showdown, contest won previously by Michael Buble and Carly Rae Jepsen. Much to Tyson's surprise, Michael Buble came to surprise him at this event. He has been invited to perform at various events and fundraisers, such as Canada Winter Games, Canuck Place gala, Variety's Children's Charity events, Global TV's Christmas breakfast wish, Hospital Galas, Canada Summer Special Olympics and both Canadian and American anthems at National Hockey League Canucks game and a Vancouver Canadians baseball. Tyson's also been able to perform with Michael Kaeshammer and Bobby McFerrin.





## December 19, 2015 Recital Participants



**Jacob Skiba**, 10, lives in Oakville, Ontario, Canada. He started taking vocal lessons with Kinga Mitrowska. In 2012, Jacob received first prize in the All Canadian Pageant Show, and was admitted to the final casting of *Les Miserables* and then went successfully through the semi-finals at the CNE Rising Star Competition. In 2013, Jacob performed with great success at the Polonia talent show in Fregata and during XXV Polish Festival at Chin picnic organized by Radio Polonia on the occasion of Canada Day. In 2014, Jacob had the honour to perform at the Gala Concert on the occasion of the Canonization of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II. Jacob was on TV on Tiny Talent Time show in 2014. Recently Jacob played the part of Pharoah/Brother in the musical 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'.

**Mia Mancera**, 12, and will be attending the Orange College School of the Arts in the fall in the Classical Voice Conservatory. She has been a performer since second grade and has been involved in multiple musicals and performances as both main and supporting characters. Mia has been taking voice lessons for 4 years and enjoys both classical and musical theater. She has taken both acting and dancing classes to make her a triple threat. Mia has placed in multiple vocal competitions on a local level including NATS/ Musical Arts/ POSA. She has also received honorable mention and finalist in the national Hal Leonard Vocal Competition. In 2013, she won 2nd place in the American Protégé International Competition. More recently, Mia has begun playing the cello which she finds challenging and exciting.



**Kai Alvia Koren**, 12, has been acting and singing since the age of 6, having been influenced by her love for Broadway musicals. When she is not performing, she is recording and continuing her coaching of the arts by some of the best acting and vocal coaches in the Florida market. She has been training with Jill Switzer-Author, Entertainer, Vocal Coach and Radio Host. Kai has continued to audition for casting directors in the Florida, New York and California. Kai has performed the National Anthem for numerous sporting events and most recently performed on the Kravis Center Stage and was a Semi-Finalist in

the Starz of the Future Competition. Acting on Broadway is her Goal and Dream, singing and dance continue to consume her every spare moment thru classes and performances. Kai attends BAK Middle School of the Arts as a musical theatre major and in on the honor role in all subjects.

## December 19, 2015 Recital Participants

**Emma V. Richardson**, 17, is currently a voice student in the Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Canada. She studies with Dr. Robert Loewen. A classically trained voice student for over 11 years, Emma is the recipient of several first place awards and scholarships in regional music festivals, as well as a Canadian provincial finalist and first round winner in the Classical Singers Vocal Competition. Emma has performed as a soloist in several concerts, including a guest appearance with the Durham Youth Orchestra. For seven years, Emma was a member of the Toronto Children's Chorus, and she has performed in many venues, including in Brazil and Argentina. She has had the opportunity to perform with esteemed guest artists such as Christopher Plummer, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and the Canadian Brass.



**Rebecca Reavley**, 17, is a Singaporean, in her final year of studies in Anglo Chinese Junior College (ACJC). She began studies in voice in 2014 after joining the ACJC Choir. She currently studies Classical repertoire under Ms Tan Sin Sim, alongside studies in Piano under Malisa Bay. She pursues an all-rounded study of music, including Performance, Composition, as well as Western and Asian music history and analysis under the GCE A-level Music Elective Programme in her school, and has participated in external programs like the Asian Contemporary Ensemble Composition Academy, with her composition being showcased in the Intercultural Transfers in Music 2015 Symposium in Singapore. She has received the ACJC Music Elective Programme Scholarship in 2014, and the Ministry of Education Humanities Scholarship in 2014 and 2015.

**Cheryl Bains**, 15, is a student at the United World College South East Asia, Singapore. A Soprano soloist under Khor Ai Ming, she has received a distinction in the Grade 8 ABRSM vocal exam and performs regularly in the Esplanade Concert Hall and Recital Studio, Singapore. Her performances include a soloist in productions of Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* (Soprano) and Beethoven's 9th Symphony (Alto). She also sang the lead role of *Pamina* in a production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* in 2014 with the Vocal Associates Festival Children's Chorus. In addition to western art music, Cheryl is also trained in the art of Hindustani Classical Vocal Music, Piano and Dance. She has been contributing regularly for two years to the Down Syndrome Association of Singapore for their Gala Charity Dinners in which she has performed solo as well as trained a choir of members with Down Syndrome.





## December 19, 2015 Recital Participants



**Priya Radhakrishnan**, 16, was born in Manchester, UK and currently lives in Bangalore, India. She has been training in western classical music at the Harmony School of Music, Bangalore under Sandra Oberoi and has subsequently given music exams of the Associated Boards of Royal School of Music and the London College of Music. She has performed in musical theatre productions and has shared platforms with notable personalities like Neville Bharucha and Arun Rozario. Priya has sung with the Harmony Chorus at events like Magnificat, Philaithia, and the Bangalore Peace Project. She has also has the privilege of attending master classes under Pamela Hinchman, Astrid Müller and Pauline Warjri. Adding to her penchant for music, Priya has been playing the piano since the age of 6 and given her ABRSM exams.

**Katherine (Katie) Langelier**, 17, of San Francisco, CA, is a senior at University High School and a passionate singer. In 2015, Katie was selected as a Merola Opera Student ConneXion Program Participant, and was a Classical Singer Magazine Winner and First Round Finalist, in the Classical Competition at the University of the Pacific. She was also awarded a scholarship from the San Francisco Bay Area NATS Singing Festival and Competition, where she placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division 3, Art Song. Katie is a member of a student run a cappella group, *The Satonics*, and in 2015, the group was selected to participate in the Semi-Finals of the International Competition of High School A Cappella, in Portland, OR. She has performed in all musicals at her high school including 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnum County Spelling Bee, Guys and Dolls and this past spring she played Hope Cladwell in Urinetown.



**Lucas Guzman**, 17, attends Roxbury Latin School and is a baritone in the New England Conservatory Youth Chorale and Camerata and the Young Men's Chorus of the Handel and Haydn Society in Boston. In 2015, he won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the High School Division of the Metrowest Opera Competition and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the National Association of Teachers of Singing New England region. In 2014, Lucas founded the Boston Area High School Student Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. He is a cantor at his local parish and will be a Choral Scholar at St. Paul in Cambridge after studying this summer at



Tanglewood's Young Artists Vocal Program.

## December 19, 2015 Recital Participants

**Grace Julia Mozitis**, 13, is from Linwood, NJ. She develops her vocal skills under the tutoring of Julie Zarukin Handlon. Grace attends The Walnut Street Theatre School in Philadelphia where she studies Advanced Acting and Musical Theatre. Grace is a member of NY Broadway Youth Ensemble (BYE) under the instruction of Joseph Baker and Amelia DeMayo. BYE has afforded her the opportunity to perform with such notables as James Galway and Tim Janis at Carnegie Hall in The American Christmas Carol and the Actor's Fund Awards at Sardi's. Grace had the honor of singing our National Anthem at the Wells Fargo Center at a 76ers game in Philadelphia. She was a featured singer at Retter Entertainment's "A Magical Broadway Christmas" and at the Triad Theatre at A Time To Shine Cabaret in New York. Grace has won numerous talent competitions such as Best Overall Vocal and Division Winner at Ocean City's Got Talent; Best Vocalist Award at OnStage New York 2015's regional competition and finalist for Sea Isle City's Got Talent. Grace currently holds the title of South Jersey Youth Idol 2015.



**Ziyao (Chelsea) Guo**, 14, is a piano-majored student of Prof. Hung-kuan Chen at the Juilliard Prep. She studies voice as minor with Cythia Sanner and Soonyeon Kim there. Chelsea has won many piano competitions including American Protégé and Piano Teachers' Congress of New York. At age 11, she was a semifinalist of Gina Bachauer International Junior Piano Competition, and was awarded "Special Commendation for Young Talents" at the 13th Ettlingen International Competition for Young Pianists in Germany. She was a recipient of the 2014 "Eppan Junior Prize" in Italy, and the 2015 Nordmann Scholarship winner at the Juilliard Prep. Chelsea's solo performances were featured by WQXR's "Young Artists Showcase" (age 8) and NPR's "From the Top" (age 13). She has performed Mozart's piano Concerto (age 9) and Beethoven Piano Concerto (age 12) with orchestras, and will perform Chopin Concerto with orchestras in Italy and Poland this summer. She has given six solo recitals, including four for some concert series, and recently performed at "Pianists from the World" concert in Brescia, Italy. Chelsea has participated in Schlern, Ishikawa, Aspen Music Festivals and etc., and taken master classes with Paul Badura-Skoda, Andrea Bonatta, Eugne Indjic, Nikolai Lunganski, Piotr Palecncy, Wojciech Switala, Tamas Ungar, and Dina Yoffe, etc.



## December 19, 2015 Recital Participants



**Emily Muramoto**, 14, attends the Orange County School of the Arts (OCSA) in Santa Ana, California. At OCSA, Emily is in her third year in the Classical Voice Conservatory and is now in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, served as past president of the school's Concert Choir, and received the Excellence in Artistry award. Emily's repertoire includes Classical, Broadway, and Jazz. Emily has won several awards for her vocal performances. She entered and placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the American Festival competition in 2014 and 2015. She was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 2014 American Protégé competition in December, 2014 and performed her winning vocal at the Weill Concert Hall at Carnegie Hall. She passed the Voice Level 7 exam for the Certificate of Merit Program and was selected in 2013 and 2014 to perform in the Voice Festival Recital at the Music Teachers' Association of California Annual Convention in San Jose and Los Angeles, California, respectively.

**Aimee Banks**, 13, is a soprano from Galway, Ireland. This present year Aimee has secured eight National Titles at Irelands prestigious Classical Festival 'Feis Ceoil' 2015, Dublin, Sligo and Midlands. She was also awarded Overall Vocalist Award and Bursary 2015 for Midlands Feis Ceoil in the last week. Last year, Aimee had the honour of performing for The Papal Nuncio to Ireland His Excellency Charles Brown at a 10 year anniversary celebration and was also the recipient of a High Achievers Award from The Royal Irish Academy of Music. Aimee recorded her first cd, entitled "My Classical Spirit", and donated all of the proceeds to "Laura Lynn-Irelands only Children's Hospice. Aimee has always set her standards very high and even though she only 13, her dream is to be the next Maria Callas and perform on the world stage.



**Niko Mancera**, 15, will be a sophomore at Santa Margarita Catholic High school. Niko's acting debut was as Captain Hook in a middle school production of Peter Pan. As a freshman, he had the role of Rudy in Hello Dolly. Niko has won awards in multiple competitions, including NATS where he will be one of 20 high school students in the national semifinals. He has won the Robyn Follman Young Artist Award in 2014, the Robert E Young Award in 2015 from POSA, the Promising Artist Encouragement Award from Spotlight 2014. He was a finalist in the 2014 Classical Singer Competition, where he received a 4 year

college scholarship for his performances. Niko greatly enjoys singing classical music, playing the piano, and acting. His goal is to attain a solid musical education and he aspires to someday perform in the operatic arts.

## December 19, 2015 Recital Participants

**Aleesha Yan**, 17, is from Manhattan Beach, California. She studies classical voice and opera with Milena Kitic, Gabriel Lawson, Maria Lazarova, Sarah Gonzalez, and Ann Tomlinson. She is a senior at the Orange County High School of the Arts in the classical voice conservatory and sings with the Los Angeles Children's Chorus. Aleesha has traveled extensively, bringing the joys of music to South Africa, England, Germany, Italy, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and China. Aleesha volunteers with Girl Scouts, Lunches with Love, Friends in Deed, Locks with Love, and the Los Angeles Food Bank. Aleesha's singing accomplishments include being a finalist in POSA 2015, Angels Vocal Academy's Opera Intensive 2015, and OCAVA 2015 in Italy, Rome.



**Stephanie Chee**, 15, from Sunnyvale, CA, recently placed fourth for Art Song in the 2015 Hal Leonard Vocal Competition. She has been in many musicals, such as "The Wizard of Oz" and "Into the Woods," and recently starred as Sarah Brown in Wilcox Stage Company's production of "Guys and Dolls." Stephanie was also Freshman Class President at Wilcox High School. She has been dancing for 3 years, and taking piano lessons for 10 years. In her spare time, Stephanie sings for the senior residents at Belmont Senior Center. Stephanie studies voice with Amy Heumann.

**Gwyneth Campbell**, 16, was awarded Special Prize and performed in the "Moscow Meets Friends" Festival sponsored by the Vladimir Spivakov International Charity Foundation (Moscow, Russia). In 2015, she placed 3rd as the youngest prizewinner in the 2015 New York Lyric Opera Theatre National Vocal Competition, and sang in the winners' concert. After performing in 2014 with the New York Concerti Sinfonietta by winning first prize in the "International Shining Stars Competition," she performed as a soloist in Carnegie Hall. She has performed four times with the Concert Festival Orchestra as a Grand Prix winner. She was granted scholarships by Concert Festival sang with the Orquestra Clássica do Centro in collaboration with "Uniao Artistica de Alexander Ioffe" in Lisbon, Portugal (2015); and in the Nicholai Rimsky-Korsakov Memorial Museum (St. Petersburg, Russia, 2014). Gwyneth has performed many times at Carnegie's Weil Recital Hall, Cami Hall, Leiderkranz Foundation, German Cultural Center, Merkin Hall, Rutgers University, Symphony Space, and the Curtis Institute. Gwyneth performed three times as an Omega Ensemble Next Generation Artist. She studies with Maria Lyudko.

