AmericanProtégé

American Protégé is advancing the careers of our participants and winners as well as promoting their talents. Our programs offer 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.

For all instrumentalists, singers, and ensembles alike, American Protégé has offered an unprecedented opportunity to escalate the scope of their talents to new heights. We debuted the opportunity for talented artists to perform at the American Protégé Summer Gala Concerts at the world's most illustrious music venue: the 2,800-seat Isaac Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall.

This year our organization continues to grow and our Competitions attracted the largest number of very competitive applicants on record from 54 countries.

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, May 26, 2018

At 7:30 in the Evening

Weill Recital Hall
At
Carnegie Hall

Programme

1	Polka No. 2	Lu-Yang Guo
	<u>Cello Sextet:</u>	
	Sunny Fan	
	Jeslyn Fan	
	Claire Jiang	
	Anthony Jiang	
	Andrew Pu	
	Natasha Mar	
2	The Trout Quintet, D 667, IV. Andantino	Schubert
	<u>The Apollo Quintet:</u>	
	Annie Chin, violin	
	Gabe Galley, viola	
	Kyle Shin, cello	
	Adam Kim, double bass	
	Sofia DiNatale, piano	
3	The American Quartet Op. 96., I Mvt	Dvořák
	<u>Noctem Quartet:</u>	
	Claire Lee, violin	
	Vincent Kaverud, violin	
	Francesca Tavano, viola	
	Brant Barbera-Hwang, cello	
4	Piano Trio C Minor	Beethoven
	<u>Piano Trio:</u>	
	Kevin Hu, violin	
	Sunny Fan, cello	
	Leo Liang, piano	
5	15 Children's Pieces Op. 27, A Sad Little Tale	Kabalevsky
	Yi- Chen Hung, piano	
6	Clowns, 24 Pieces for Children Op. 39	Kabalevsky
	Colin Fuller, piano	
7	Minuet No. 1 and Trio	Mozart
	Cadence Park, piano	
8	Variations on a Russian Theme	Maykapar
	Zoe Aldana, piano	
9	Impromptu No. 1 Op. 29	Chopin
	Ryan Kim, piano	

Programme

10	Nocturne Op. 54 No. 4	Grieg
	Kamina Becker, piano	
11	Sonatina in C Major Op. 36 No. 3	Clementi
	Jonathan Weng, piano	
12	Der Erlkonig	Schubert
	Piano Duo/Four Hands:	
	Katherine Zhao	
	Sunny Fan	
13	Gavotte in D Major	Bach
	Zaliah Siva Kumaran, violin	
14	Violin Concerto in G Major, I Mvt	Haydn
	Matthew Kim, violin	
15	Sonata No. 1 in G Minor, Presto	Bach
	Alex Zhao, violin	
16	Salut D'Amour	Elgar
	Henry Auxenfans, violin	
17	Cello Suite No. 1, Prelude	Bach
	Hayden Ren, cello	
18	Cello Sonata No. 1 Op. 38, II Mvt	Brahms
	Cello and Piano Duo:	
	Zoltan Csikos, cello	
	Jelena Cingara, piano	
19	Xin Jiang Dance No. 7	Lu-Yan Guo
	Cello Duo:	
	Sunny Fan	
	Timothy Chu	
20	Partita No. 3, Preludio	Bach
	Zeyu Zhao, violin	
21	Symphonie Espagnole Op. 21, I Mvt	Lalo
	Caroline Cowley, violin	

Programme

22	Concerto in C Minor	Bach
	Megan Chen, viola	
23	Violin Concerto No. 4	Viuextemps
	Raunak Kumar, violin	
24	Concerto for Viola, III. Allegro moderato	Walton
	Alicia Yang, viola	
25	Élégie Op. 24	Faure
	Iris Cheng, viola	
26	Concerto for Viola, I. Andante comodo	Walton
	Alicia Wu, viola	
27	Suite Op. 131 in G Minor, I. Molto Sostenuto	Reger
	Bella Fong, viola	
28	Six Variations	Beethoven
	Winnie Ip, piano	
29	Liebestraum No. 3	Liszt
	Morgan Lee, piano	
30	Nocturne No. 4 Op. 38	Liebermann
	Stephanie Liao, piano	
31	Prelude and Fugue in G Minor No. 16 BMV 885	Bach
	Alison Xin, piano	
32	Sonata No. 23 in F Minor Op. 57, III Mvt	Beethoven
	Alice Li, piano	
33	Paganini Etude No. 2	Liszt
	Ellen Sirower, piano	

Sunny Fan, from San Diego, CA is in the eighth grade at Oak Valley Middle School. Sunny's cello career began three years ago. He joined the middle school orchestra in the sixth grade and has been in orchestra ever since. He enjoys being first chair of the cello section in his middle school orchestra. Introduced to music at the age of five, he has been playing piano for eight years. He participated in the 2013 MTAC (Music Teacher's Association of California) Sonata Contest, and has passed Certificate of Merit Level 8 with all honorable mention for each level. Since 2015 Sunny has been studying piano with Mrs. Tatiana Stignev. He won first place in duet in Carmel Valley Tame Ensemble Contest with his partner. He attended the Colorado Spring UC-SICPC (The United States International Duo Piano Competition) Quartet in 2016, Duo in 2017, and the international piano and strings competition 2016, and won second place. He has a passion for cello and piano, and has already given a number of performances at school, retirement homes, and churches.

Jeslyn Fan, from San Diego, California, is a seventh grader at Oak Valley Middle School. Jeslyn's cello career began three years ago. She has played in a lot local and music festivals, especially with her orchestra regularly at nursing homes and charity events. She has competed in CAPMT's 2017 Young Artists Competition and Concerto Competition for cello. This is her first-time performing at Carnegie Hall, she's very excited about it.

Claire Jiang is a second-time American Protégé competitor from San Diego, California. Claire began learning cello at the age of twelve and has since performed in numerous local and regional competitions and music festivals. She is a ninth-grader at Canyon Crest Academy and is currently second chair in the school's orchestra. Aside from cello, Claire has an interest in piano and had won second place at the International Duo Competition with her quartet. Since her Carnegie Hall debut in April of 2017, she has competed in CAPMT's 2017 Young Artists Competition and Concerto Competition for cello while also continuing in her piano studies. She plays with her orchestra regularly at nursing homes and charity events.

May 26, 2018 Recital Participants

Anthony Jiang is a sixth grader and first-time performer at Carnegie Hall, and is from San Diego, CA. Apart from his interest in cello, Anthony enjoys fencing and playing piano. He studies cello under his teacher, Lu Yan Guo. Anthony plays for nursing homes and music festivals and has performed in numerous local competitions. He won third place at CAPMT's 2017 Young Artists Competition as a soloist. Anthony goes to R. Roger Rowe Middle School and is first chair in the school orchestra. Anthony plays cello at charity events regularly with his orchestra and is very passionate about his commitment to cello.

Andrew Pu is thirteen-year-old from San Diego, California. His primary hobbies are playing cello and competitive soccer. In 2014, Andrew began playing cello with Mr. Lu-Yan Guo. Since then, Andrew has participated in many competitions and recitals. He also practices and performs with Lu-Yan Guo's orchestra and cello ensemble, along with multiple other talented musicians. Furthermore, Andrew also has experience in piano and has come to Carnegie Hall before to perform a piano duo. Andrew is happy performing any time he can, from special concerts to fiddling festivals. He has already given a number of performances at school, nursing homes and churches in the past two years.

Annie Chin is currently a sophomore at Glastonbury High School in Glastonbury, Connecticut. She has been playing the violin since the age of eight and studies with Artemis Simerson. She has participated in the Connecticut Eastern Region Music Festival, the Connecticut All-State Music Festival, and the New England Music Festival. Annie is currently a member of the Connecticut Youth Symphony. In the summer of 2016, Annie went to Tuscany, Italy to take part in Eric Dahlin's Music Adventure Program.

Gabe Galley is a violist currently preparing for his soloist debut with the Connecticut Youth Symphony in May, performing the Walton Viola Concerto. Upon entering freshman year, he found success in local, regional, and national orchestra competitions including Eastern Regionals, Allstate, NEMFA and NAfME, whose festivals ranged from Vermont to Disneyland, Florida. In addition to orchestral achievements, he also earned second prize in the CT-ASTA solo competition with the Stamitz viola concerto. He has been taking lessons from his namesake, Gabriel Remillard, for seven years, beginning shortly after moving to Connecticut from Overland Park, Kansas. While Gabe is keen on learning new solo repertoire on his own and at summer camps such as the Tanglewood institute, he also enjoys several chamber groups which he is currently a part of.

Kyle Shin, fifteen, began studying cello at the age of eight with Yun-Yang Lin at Neighborhood Music School (NMS). He frequently performs for all-school recitals and studio recitals. Kyle has won the Merit Award with Honors in Performance three times at NMS. He has been part of the Greater New Haven Youth Orchestra since 2016 at NMS, one of the top youth orchestras in Connecticut. This year, Kyle is the principal cello as a sophomore. At Hopkins School, Kyle participates in the school orchestra as well. He has qualified for the CMEA (Connecticut Music Educators Association) Southern Region High School Festival and the CMEA All-State Festival for the past two years, placing second chair at All-State last year. Kyle also plays in many chamber ensembles. He studied chamber music at the Elm City Chamber Fest over the summer, and he also performed with the Hopkins Quartet at Yale's Battell Chapel.

Adam Kim is a senior at Glastonbury High School in Connecticut. He has played the double bass for eight years, and has studied with his current teacher, Douglas Lemke, for the past three years. He currently plays with the Connecticut Youth Symphony as principal double bass, two quintets (Dvorak and Schubert), and his high school chamber orchestra. For the past two summers, he has attended Summit Music Festival, where he studied with Eugene Levinson. Additionally, he's participated in the CT All-State and Regional music festivals.

May 26, 2018 Recital Participants

Sofia DiNatale is a junior at Glastonbury High School in Connecticut. Starting her piano studies at age ten, Sofia has participated in numerous piano and string festivals and competitions. Sofia currently studies with Elaine Silbereis. Her piano accomplishments include achieving a score that awarded her the privilege of performing at Carnegie Hall in 2014, and in first place in the Virtuoso Piano Competition in 2015. Sofia has prepared for and completed music history and music theory exams as part of the Royal Conservatory program. She has completed 9 levels for the RC music development program. Sofia also plays cello in the Connecticut Youth Symphony, is principal cellist in the Glastonbury HS Chamber Ensemble, as well as various other local ensembles. She has participated in the Connecticut Eastern Regional and All State Festivals, and the New England Music Festival. She also plays piano for the HS Jazz Ensemble and pit orchestras.

Claire Lee is a sophomore at Glastonbury High School in Glastonbury, Connecticut. Claire has been playing violin since she was eight years old and is currently studying with Mrs. Annie Trépanier. She has also been a part of several chamber groups since she was twelve, with the coaching of Mrs. Yun-Yang Lin. This will be Claire's second time performing at the winner's recital with her chamber group for the American Protege Piano and Strings Competition. She is also a participant of the New England Music Festival and Connecticut Eastern Region Music Festival.

Vincent Kaverud is a violinist from Glastonbury, Connecticut. He is a sophomore at Glastonbury high school and studies music at the Hartt School of Music. He currently studies under Michael Wheeler from the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, and is a current member of the Connecticut Youth Symphony. Vincent participates in several chamber music groups including quartets, quintets, and chamber orchestras. He has been a member of the 2017 CMEA Eastern Regionals, CMEA All-State, and NEMFA orchestras, and was a finalist in the 2017 CT-ASTA Strings Competition.

Francesca Tavano is a junior at Glastonbury High School, in Glastonbury, Connecticut. Francesca began playing viola when she was nine years old and has been taking lessons from Melinda Daetsch, for that time. She is a member of the Glastonbury High School Chamber ensemble in the position of Assistant Principal. She has performed in the New England and Eastern Regional Music Festivals. Francesca has a love of chamber music and is also in a quintet, which is coached by Mr. Steve Larson. During the last five years, Francesca was a member of several orchestras at the University of Hartford and is now playing in the Connecticut Youth Symphony. In 2017, Francesca attended Eric Dahlin's Music Adventure in Tuscany, Italy, with a focus on chamber music. She shares her talent by giving lessons to an elementary school student.

Brant Barbera-Hwang is a sophomore at Glastonbury High School in Connecticut. He discovered cello when he saw a video of Yo Yo Ma playing a Bach cello suite. This propelled him to join his elementary school's orchestra as a fourth grader, and within a year and a half, he performed the entire "Prelude" from Bach Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major at his school talent show. Since then, he has participated in numerous concerts and festivals as a soloist, chamber musician, and member of various local and regional orchestras. His career highlight as a musician up to this point was a performance at Carnegie Hall in 2016 as a cellist in a string quartet.

Kevin Hu, thirteen years old, is a young violinist from San Diego, California and a student of Oak Valley Middle School. His career started eight years ago when he picked up his first violin, and he has grown up with violin as a major part of his life. He has been studying violin under Alexander Palamidis since 2015. During the summer 2017, he played in Interlochen's symphony orchestra. Currently, he is the concertmaster of Oak Valley Middle School's advanced Orchestra and a member of Mainly Mozart Youth Orchestra. He also enjoys playing chamber music.

May 26, 2018 Recital Participants

Leo Liang is thirteen years old. He was born and raised in San Diego, California. He started learning the piano when He was eight years old and was instantly amazed by the variety of sounds that opened itself to him. He placed first in several local competitions, performed at Carnegie Hall in New York, placed second in 2015 at an international competition in Colorado (USIDPC), then later placed first in 2017.

Yi-chen Hung, born in 2012, is a native of Taiwan and playing the piano at age three. At four, Yi-chen won the Apollo Prize in 2016 PIARA Piano Competition in Hamamatsu, Japan (Category 7 and Under). He was the youngest contestant to compete in the final. At five years old, Yi-chen won first place in 2017 Taiwan Agean Sea Music Competition and Yi-Shang Music Competition. He was also selected as one of the semi-finalists of both 2017 NTD Asia Pacific Music Competition (Category 8 and Under) and 27th Japan Classical Music Competition (Category 6 and Under). Yi-chen currently studies piano with his mother, Junko Nishida.

Colin Fuller is seven years old and a second grader at The Caedmon School - a Montessori school in New York City. Colin has enjoyed playing the piano, particularly being able to learn new pieces by himself and giving impromptu concerts at home. He especially loves playing Christmas carols which he shares with us all year round!

Cadence Park resides in New York City. She began her piano studies at the age of four and currently studies under the tutelage of Hitomi Honda. She attends one of New York City's premier Gifted and Talented schools. Throughout her piano studies, she has performed many times in the city, including as a soloist with an orchestra, as well as together with a professional dance troupe. This is her first official piano competition and she looks forward to many more in the future. She has always dreamt of performing in front of an audience and family at Carnegie Hall.

Zoe Aldana is an enthusiastic seven-year-old girl and a student of Calusa Elementary in Miami, Florida. Her passion for music and arts showed since early age. She began her piano studies at the age of five with Dr. Elena Fomicheva of Superior Academy of Music. In 2017 she won first place and received a perfect score in the Miami Youth Fair Piano Competition and was a finalist in the Greater Miami Youth Symphony Concert Competition. She regularly performs in the South Florida area.

Ryan Kim, from Miami, Florida, is a nine-year-old boy, who started to learn piano at the age of six. He studies piano with Elena Fomicheva. He performs actively in the Miami area and has participated in regional competitions. He was the finalist of the Greater Miami Youth Symphony Piano Concerto competition. He had a master class at his school and was awarded for his piano performances from the School Board of Miami-Dade County.

Kamina Becker is a fourth grader at Bowman School in California. She has been playing piano since she was 4 years old and is currently studying with Mr. Dmitriy Kosovskiy at the Pacific Piano School. She successfully completed the National Piano Guild Auditions at the age of five. Since then Kamina has passed with distinction the California Certificate of Merit test three times, including level 7 last year, and was chosen to play at the MTAC Branch Honor's recital. In addition to studying piano, she also plays flute and bass piano in her school bands. Her passion for music has also found an outlet through dance, where she has competed and won numerous awards.

Jonathan Weng, nine years old from Vancouver, Canada, started learning piano at the age of four with Professor David Vandereyk. He has achieved honors and scholarships in numerous Canadian piano competitions. At the age of seven, Jonathan was awarded the First Place in Crescendo international piano competition and was invited to perform at Carnegie Hall. Jonathan also plays violin and enjoys swimming and skiing.

May 26, 2018 Recital Participants

Katherine Zhao is twelve years old and lives in San Diego, California. She started her piano studying with Tatiana Stignev in 2012. The following year she won First place in the Carmel Valley branch MTAC Sonata Competition. She keeps developing her techniques and music understanding under the guidance of Mrs. Stignev and she received first place in the Branch Concerto Competition and several other awards. In 2017, Katherine played a piece of piano duet with her friend and won the first place of Level IV in USIDPC (US international duo piano competition).

Sunny Fan, from San Diego, California, is in the eighth grade at Oak Valley Middle School. He has been playing and enjoying the piano since he was five. He has participated in the 2013 MTAC (Music Teacher's Association of California) Sonata Contest and has passed Certificate of Merit Level 8 with all honorable mention for each level before age eleven. He has been studying piano with Mrs. Tatiana Stignev for the past two years. He attended the Colorado Spring UCSICPC (The United States International Duo Piano Competition) Quartet in 2016, Duo in 2017, and the International Piano and Strings competition 2016, and won second place in all of them. He won Grand Prize in duet in Carmel Valley Tame Ensemble Contest with his partner both in 2016 and 2017. He has a passion for cello as well as piano; he enjoys being first chair of the cello section in his middle school orchestra.

Zaliah Siva Kumaran, age 8, from New York City, started learning piano at the age of 3 and at age 5 additionally began violin and she is currently a student at Third Street Music School in New York. She is also studying theory, Broadway musical theatre and dance. In 2016, Zaliah was also accepted to Bloomingdale's Music School Preparatory Orchestra, NYC as one of the youngest players and in 2017 she also plays in Third Street Music's Conspirito Orchestra. Zaliah was blessed to perform at Carnegie Hall in 2017, being awarded third place in the American Protégé International Piano and Strings.

Matthew Kim, from Chicago, Illinois, started learning to play the violin at the age of four by first sitting through his sister's violin lessons. He is now in the fourth grade at Bell Elementary school and is an active member of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, where he earned the assistant concertmaster's seat in the fall of 2017. He has been studying with Ms. Christie Abe-Earl since 2015 and continues to grow as a musician. His musical accomplishments include winning first place at the 2017 Annual State Olympic Music Contest hosted by the Illinois Music Association.

Alex Zhao is currently a fourth-grade student at Wayside Elementary School in Maryland. He began playing the violin at age five, and plays violin in his school orchestra. In addition, he played violin in Preparatory Strings Orchestra at Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra (MCYO) at the age of nine. Currently he plays violin at Chamber Orchestra at MCYO. He enjoys playing romantic music.

Henry Auxenfans, ten, is a native of Chicago, Illinois. He is an avid violinist and pianist contributing at his primary school and within local churches, senior homes, and libraries. He is currently the Concertmaster of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra (Concert Orchestra), the youngest member of the group, and last year the Concertmaster of CYSO' Debut Orchestra. He has won first prize in the Sejong Cultural Society's violin competition, which resulted in a Chicago Cultural Center performance. Also, he is a repeat first prize winner of the Sherwood Music School's Scholarship Competition, and top prize winner in the Society of American Musician Competition, and the HM with Distinction of the Depaul University's Concerto competition (the youngest participant of the Senior Division, 2018). In the past four consecutive years, he was invited to play at the IL Federation of Music Club's Junior Festival Honors recitals. Henry studies at the Northwestern University String Academy with Stacia Spencer; he is also a member of the advanced string group of NU. In addition, he is a member of the Plymouth Quartet, coached by Lawrence Newman of Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He studies piano with Laura Fenster.

May 26, 2018 Recital Participants

Hayden Ren, a fourth grader from Newton, Massachusetts, has been learning piano since age 4. Previous winner of AADGT and Bay State piano competitions. She found her passion for cello lately and takes lessons from cellist Allison Eldredge. Hayden is currently an active performer of solo, chamber music and string orchestra in New England Conservatory.

Zoltan Csikos began his academic studies at the Academy of Arts in Novi Sad in the class of Prof. Imre Kalman. As a cello student, he has won various awards in solo playing, as a member of a piano trio, string quartet and a chamber orchestra (first prize in Cello on the Festival of Music Schools of Serbia, second prize on the National Competition of Cello in Belgrade in 2003 and other prizes as a long-time member of a piano trio and a string quartet). He has two MA's from The University of Novi Sad, and Columbia State University! Currently he is enrolled at the University of North Texas where he is pursuing his DMA in Cello Performance Degree as a teaching fellow and a student of Professor Nikola Ružević.

Jelena Cingara is an active performer and artist in US, Canada, and European countries such as Italy, and Czech Republic. She has performed in concert venues such as Libby Gardner Hall, Abravanel Hall, and Kenley Amphitheatre in Utah, just to name a few. As a collaborative and chamber musician she has played recitals in Italy, Serbia, US and Canada, and for masterclasses for famous quartets such as: The Bennewitz, Faure, Doric. Jelena is a prize winner in festivals such as Kiwanis, Peel, and Davenport in Toronto, as well as third prize winner in small ensemble/piano concerto competition at The U of Toledo. She is a recipient of numerous scholarships/assistantships, various times Dean's travel grants. Upcoming events include performances in Gallery 345, and La Balie, France. She holds a DMA from The University of Utah School of Music.

Timothy Chu started playing the cello at the age of nine. During his time at Mesa Verde Middle school, he was the first chair Cello in the Select Orchestra, as well as the first chair Cello in the San Diego Youth Symphony's Concert Orchestra. Now a freshman at Westview high school, he plays in the SDYS Sinfonia program and is also the first chair Cello in the North County String Orchestra. Chu has also achieved Superior as a soloist at the CAPMT Fall Performance Contest. Timothy enjoys volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House and playing the cello at retirement homes.

Zach Zhao is currently a student at Montgomery Blair High School in Maryland. He started violin at age five. He plays violin at the school orchestra since the sixth grade. He has been selected for Maryland All State Orchestra for four consecutive years. He has served as assistant concertmaster of Symphony Orchestra at Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra (MCYO), and currently is the co-principal of the second violin of chamber orchestra at MCYO. In the summer of 2017 he joined the orchestra at MCYO to perform in Italy. He enjoys playing Baroque and Romantic music.

Caroline Cowley, fifteen, is a sophomore at Desert Vista High School in Arizona and studies violin with Ms. Susanne Rothaar. She has been very successful on the violin, competing in numerous competitions and performing in various venues around the country. She was concertmaster of the 2016 Arizona Jr. High All-State Orchestra, concertmaster of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony, and most recently was a member of the Arizona High School All-State Orchestra.

.**Megan Chen**, 15, is a sophomore at Desert Vista High School in Arizona and studies viola with Susanne Rothaar. She played the violin for two years before switching to viola in 2015. Megan has been successful on the viola, competing in numerous state and national competitions and performing as a member of the Arizona High School All-State Orchestra. She is the Assistant Principal Violist of her school's Chamber Orchestra, with which she performed at the Chicago Midwest International Music Clinic. She received a superior rating at the 2017 Arizona Music Educators Association State Solo Competition. Megan enjoys playing solo and in ensembles. She performs as a volunteer in string ensembles for libraries, hospitals, senior centers, and Alzheimer's care groups.

Raunak Kumar, currently a freshman at Johns Creek High School in Johns Creek, Georgia, began playing the violin at five years old. He currently studies with Sonja Foster, a Curtis and Juilliard Alumna. When Raunak was thirteen years old, he was awarded the Dave Cady Memorial Scholarship. Last year, he performed solo with the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra after winning their Concerto Competition. Aside from preforming solo violin, he enjoys playing orchestral music. He is the acting assistant principal second of the Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra. He was recently awarded Concertmaster of the 9/10 GMEA Allstate String Orchestra. He coaches a club for middle schoolers that preform music for elderly homes, hospitals, etc.

Alicia Yang, 15, is a freshman at BASIS Chandler in Arizona and studies viola with Ms. Susanne Rothaar. Alicia has been very successful on the viola both as a soloist and orchestral player. In 2017, Alicia won 1st Place in the Music Teachers National Association State Solo Competition, first Place in the Arizona Musicfest Young Musicians State Solo Competition, 1st Place in the Arizona Virtuoso Violas State Viola Competition, and second Place in the Phoenix Symphony Concerto Competition. She has also received top prizes in solo competitions from the American String Teachers Association, Metropolitan Youth Symphony, and Chandler Symphony. Alicia has served as principal viola of the Arizona Elementary and Jr. High All-State Orchestras as well as the Metropolitan Youth Symphony.

Iris Cheng, sixteen, lives in Arizona and studies viola with Susanne Rothaar. She played violin for two years before switching to viola in 2013. Iris has been very successful on the viola both as a soloist and chamber musician and has competed in numerous state and national competitions. She has won top prizes in the Arizona Music Educators Association State Solo Competition and the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Scholarship Competition among others. Iris was a member of the All-National Honor Orchestra and the Arizona High School All-State Orchestra and currently serves as principal viola of the Phoenix Youth Symphony.

Alicia Wu, age sixteen, is in the eleventh grade at BASIS Scottsdale in Arizona and studies with Susanne Rothaar. In 2014 Alicia won 2nd Place in the American Protégé International Concerto Competition and 3rd Place in their Piano and Strings Competition. She won first Place in the Phoenix Symphony Guild Concerto Competition, first Place in the Arizona Musicfest Young Musicians Competition, first Place in the Arizona Music Educators Association State Viola Competition, and first Place in the Virtuoso Violas State Solo competition. In addition, she has won top prizes from the Music Teachers National Association and the American String Teachers Association. Alicia was assistant principal viola of the 2016 All-National Orchestra and principal viola of both the Arizona High School All-State Orchestra and Phoenix Youth Symphony. She has attended Tanglewood and Interlochen. She performed solo recital at MusicaNova Orchestra Young Artists Concerts, and at the Arizona Musicfest.

Bella Fong is passionate about sharing music with diverse communities around the San Francisco Bay Area. As both a chamber musician and soloist, Ms. Fong has won prizes in the Music Teacher's Association of California VOCE, US Open, Great Composers Competition, Silicon Valley Youth Music Competition, Junior Bach Festival, and the American Protégé International Piano and Strings Competition. She has participated in the Curtis Summerfest Young Artist Summer Program, Boston University Tanglewood Institute, and Stanford Youth Orchestra. Ms. Fong has worked closely with Sharon Wei, Toby Appel, and Christina Wong and has performed in masterclasses for Roberto Diaz, the Juilliard String Quartet, Michael Zaretsky, and Don Erhlich. Ms. Fong currently studies with Jessica Chang at California Music Preparatory Academy where she plays in the award-winning piano quintet Quintetto Tranquillo. Additionally, she serves as first violist of Young Chamber Musician's Meraki Sextet.

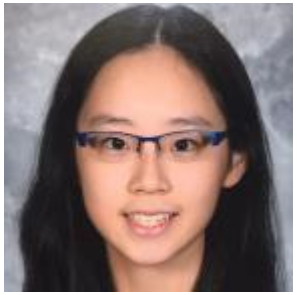
May 26, 2018 Recital Participants

Winnie Ip from Costa Rica, began learning piano at the age of four with teacher Valentina Tumanova. Winnie has performed four times at Carnegie Hall with The Bottazzi Internacional Musical Society and School of Music. She participated in Concurse Internacional de Musique Slave in France. At the age of ten, Winnie joined a musical band, which performed at Rancho Valencia in San Diego, opening up for Boyz II Men. Winnie also enjoys singing and dancing.

Morgan Lee, from Irvine, California, is a sophomore at the Orange County School of the Arts. Morgan began her musical journey at age 5 and has competed in many local, national and international competitions. She was a selected winner of the American Fine Arts Festival of Romantic Music 2014 and recently won 3rd place in the American Protégé International Competition of Romantic Music in 2017. Morgan is also part of the Orange County School of the Art Symphony Orchestra as a violinist and will go on tour with them to Russia this summer.

Stephanie Liao started playing the piano and violin when she was seven years old and has studied for eight years. In 2013, when she was ten years old, she participated in her first piano competition at the Southwestern Youth Music Festival (SYMF). She won first place in the Piano Open Complete Classic Work Category, and also won first place in the Violin Solo Competition. That same year, she won first place in piano in the Classical MTAC Theme Festival. Subsequently, she continued to compete at SYMF in multiple categories and won several additional awards from 2013-2016. In 2015, she won first place in the Romantic MTAC Theme Festival. In the Southern California Junior Bach Festival she won multiple awards for piano competitions every year from 2013-2016. Most recently, in 2017, she won first place in the California State MTAC Improvisation competition. Additionally, she enjoys being a member of the PSYO orchestra.

May 26, 2018 Recital Participants



Alison Xin has studied piano since the age of seven and is currently a student of Ella Karasik from Beachwood, Ohio. She is currently a junior at Hathaway Brown, and plays violin and piano for the school orchestra. She has earned a "Superior" rating for five consecutive years in the National Federation of Music Junior Festivals. She is a member of Cleveland's Junior Fortnightly Club, and won best in show in the 2016 6th, 9th, and 11th Grade piano competition. Alison has also participated in the Cincinnati World Piano Competition, placing as a gold medalist in Level 5 and a bronze medalist in Level 6. During the 2015 season of the AFAF Golden Era of Romantic Music competition, she earned a second place diploma. Alison has played in Carnegie Hall thrice, on behalf of AFAF, American Protégé, and World Piano Competition. She is currently co-chair of the Ella Karasik Studio Community Outreach Project.

Alice Li is from Kentucky and began studying piano at the age of five. In 2015, she received the National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC) President's Cup after many years of participating in the NFMC Festivals Program. Alice has previously been a Division Finalist in the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Senior Piano Competition, and was the national 2nd place winner of the 2014 NFMC Marilyn Caldwell Piano Competition. Outside of piano, Alice enjoys reading, as well as volunteering at her local hospital. She is currently studying neuroscience at Vanderbilt University, while taking piano lessons from Dr. Heather Conner and Dr. Caleb Harris.

Ellen Sirower, a nineteen-year-old pianist, currently studies under the tutelage of Amy Cheng at the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor. She is an alumnus of the Manhattan School of Music Pre-College Division, where she was a student for ten years. Sirower has played in master classes for pianists such as Rajung Yang, Paul Wirth, Sean Schulze, and Phillip Kawin. Previous formal teachers include Arthur Greene and Miyoko Lotto. She has attended many solo piano and chamber music festivals including the Stony Brook International Piano Festival, the Young Artist World Piano Festival, Manhattan in the Mountains, the Summit Music Festival, and the Bowdoin International Music Festival. Most recently, she was a semifinalist in the Forte International Music Competition and a first prize winner in the senior division of the Camerata Artists International Virtuoso Competition II where she had the opportunity to give her Carnegie Hall debut this past October.

AmericanProtégé

Upcoming Events

Summer Gala Concert 2018
Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage
June 6, 2018 at 8:00 PM

International Vocal Competition 2018
Application Deadline: June 10, 2018

International
Competition of Romantic Music 2018
Application Deadline: October 10, 2018

International
Woodwinds and Brass Competition 2018
Application Deadline: October 25, 2018

We Sing Pop! Song Contest 2018
Application Deadline: December 5, 2018

Summer Gala Concert 2019
Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage
Application Deadline: December 15, 2018

www.AmericanProtege.com