

Sunday Afternoon, June 12, 2022, at 2:00 PM
Isaac Stern Auditorium / Ronald O. Perelman Stage



American Protégé

is proud to present

SUMMER GALA CONCERT AT STERN

Master of Ceremonies: Steven Ionov

American Protégé is thrilled to celebrate another year of nurturing worldwide musical talent. This Gala showcases musicians from all ages and corners of the world, all winners of what has become the East Coast's most popular International Music competition. From Mozart to musical theatre and on to pop, the Isaac Stern Auditorium stage will hold a spectacular variety of performances by our distinguished artists.

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THE Artists

Nathan Liu

Nathan Liu, eight, is honored to be performing at Carnegie Hall for the first time. Nathan has been studying piano with Cynthia Crotty since age five. In 2018 and 2019, Nathan participated in the National Federation of Music Festival and received a Unanimous Superior Rating in both Piano Solo and Theory. In both years Nathan also participated in the National Piano Guild Auditions and was awarded a Superior Plus Rating and placed in the "Top Talent Circle". In 2019, Nathan performed at NEOMTA Spring/Fall Music Festivals and received high marks from the judges. Nathan is a member of Jr. Fortnightly Musical Club since 2018. In his free time, Nathan loves to play ice hockey and basketball and enjoys roller skating and swimming. He is also a member of CCCCA Children's singing group, performing at the Senior Center and local festivals in Cleveland Ohio.



Mason Liang

Mason Liang, an eight-year-old from Purchase, NY, has been playing piano for three years under the tutelage of Oxana Mikhailoff and Vassily Primakov. He was the Grand Prix winner at the Concert Festival International Competition in 2021, second place winner in the 2021 Rondo Young Artist Competition and third place of the American Protege International Piano & String Competition in 2021. Mason looks forward to showcasing his emerging artistry on the local, national, and international stage. Besides playing the piano, he also enjoys swimming, tennis, reading and acrylic painting. Mason looks forward to making his debut at Stern Auditorium Carnegie Hall in 2022.



Jiun Kai Kuah

Jiun Kai Kuah, seven, is from Singapore and a pupil of Sutini Goh. He enjoys visiting new cities and performing in competitions and festivals. Last year, he won two first prizes at the Korea-Asia Piano Open competition, in the Children Class C and Sonatina Class A. In 2018, he won 3 third prizes in the Hong Kong-Asia Piano Open Competition, in the Free Choice Class D, Bach Junior Class, and Children's Pieces Class B. Earlier in his musical journey, Jiun Kai participated in the 2017 Batam International Open Piano Competition in Indonesia, where he won two first prizes, in the Petite and Russian composer categories. Aside from music, Jiun Kai is a fan of the Hardy Boys, and enjoys Pokémon Go.



Olivia Ling Lim

Olivia Ling Lim is 8 years old and lives in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She began her classical piano training at 5. She started competing in local and international competitions shortly thereafter. In 2019, Olivia received 1st prize winner at the Vienna Grand Prize Virtuoso International Competition, Austria and was invited to perform at the Wiener Musikverein. She then won 1st Prize winner at the America Golden Classic International Music Competition and performed at the Carnegie Hall, New York. Other awards that she has received include Gold Award & scholarship in Malaysia Mozart International Piano Competition, Gold Award in Beijing International Music Competition, Gold Award in Malaysia Arts Festival and etc. Her other performance experiences include performing at the Paris Amphitheatre Cite De La Mos and London Royal Elbert Hall (1st Prize winner). One of her most enjoyable experience was to be interviewed by Steinway and Sons Malaysia in their advertisement campaign.



Taige Wang

Taige Wang, nine, began learning piano at the age of four. Only a year later, he won the regional Steinway competition for young artists. In 2016 he won the First prize at Madame Zhou Guang- Ren's national festival and performed at China National TV Chanel CCTV. In the past two years he has also received First prizes at the MTAC Contemporary Festival and Romantic Festival, First Prize at CAPMT Solo competition and gave a full solo recital in Da-Lian, China with the invitation by Steinway & Sons. Taige's award most recent received was Gold Medal at 2019 Seattle International Piano Competition.



Samuel Meyer Buch

Samuel Meyer Buch resides in Los Angeles, California and has been studying the piano since he was five years old. Identified as a highly gifted student, Samuel attended the Mirman School for several years. He now attends the Viewpoint School and studies piano under the direction of International Concert Pianist, Ms. Rita Shen. Samuel has had great success playing in recitals of all genres. Samuel regularly plays concerts for the residents of his grandparent's retirement community and enjoys bringing the "magic of the keys" to everyone he touches. Samuel also conducted the Star-Spangled Banner in Kindergarten. Samuel also enjoys robotics, science, tennis and flag football.



Katelyn Pei

Katelyn Pei is ten years old and has been studying piano since she was six years old. She is a Gold medalist in the 4th Chopin International Youth Piano Competition and previously was invited twice to play in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall after winning the American Protégé Competitions. She became a Mensa member at age six and is fluent in English, French and Chinese. She is also nationally ranked #16 in the International Math Kangaroo Competition.



Jaden Tan

Jaden Tan, twelve, began learning piano at the age of six. He has participated in many music competitions and activities such as the American Protégé International Music Competition, Elite International Music Competition, Little Mozart Competition, Adria Art Festival (Slovenia) Contest 2021, Nouvelles Etoiles (Paris, France) 5th Edition Competition, XIV International Instrumental Competition for Young Performers “Colibri” 2021, and Triumph Music Festival. He won first place at Elite International Music competition in 2020, 2021, and 2022, first place at Triumph Music Festival in 2022, second place at Adria Art Festival Art Contest in 2021, and 4th Place at Nouvelles Etoiles (Paris, France) 5th Edition Competition. Jaden also has another musical interest, the violin. He has played in school since the 4th grade. In addition to being a student and maintaining his musical hobbies, Jaden plays basketball and participates in swimming outside of school.



Chengry Hsien

Chengry Hsien is 11 years old, a sixth-grader at Chadbourne Elementary School in Fremont, California. He is very fond of music, starting playing piano at five, and following Mrs. Le Yu since. He loves Beethoven's and Chopin's music. He has won many prizes: First prize plus exceptional young talent musician special prize at the 2019 Golden Classical Music Awards; the first absolute prize, and Exceptional young talent at Grand Prize Virtuoso Competition, First prize at American Protégé International Music Talent Competition in 2020. In addition, in Sep 2021, he got 2nd prize at the American Classical Young Musician Award. Besides piano, Chengry loves to swim, participates in Junior Olympic and Far western swimming Competitions, and also plays golf. He got elected Sergeant of Arms at Chadbourne Elementary School Student Council. Chengry is a fun and optimistic kid who loves to make friends, help others, read history and wants to explore the world.



Minghui Grace Yao

Minghui Grace Yao is a sixth grader at Mesa Verde Middle School in San Diego, California. She began piano lessons at the age of six and has participated in numerous competitions and recitals. She was the first-place winner in the 2018 San Diego Young Protégé Competition and was invited as a featured festival performer in the CAPMT District 1 Honors Recital and Gala. Awarded with second place in the American Protégé International Competition of Romantic Music, Grace gave her first piano solo at Carnegie Weill Recital Hall in April 2019. Besides piano, she plays the violin and received third place in the 2019 Young Artists Competition for both violin solo and duet for the intermediate level. Grace actively volunteers to participate in community concerts. Outside of music, she enjoys art, surfing, horseback riding and figure skating. With passion and dedication, Grace strives to achieve excellence in every field she studies in.



William He

William He, twelve years old, began playing piano when he was seven. He participated in many music competitions and activities, such as the American Protégé International Music Competition, Virginia Music Theory and Sight Reading Test, Virginia Fall Festival, RMTA Bach Piano Competition, Competition, Virginia Central Audition and Virginia Commonwealth University Piano Competition. He won First Place at Virginia Central Audition in 2017. He won Second Place at the Virginia Commonwealth University in 2017. He won Second Place at the RMTA Bach Piano Competition. He won Third Place at the 2018 American Protégé Piano & String Competition. He won Third Place at the 2019 American Protégé Piano & String Competition. He played twice at New York Carnegie Hall. He is not only talented in playing piano, he is also good at playing basketball and TaeKwonDo. He plans to apply to Curtis Institute of Music School in the future.



Arya Babu

Arya Babu, thirteen, is a seventh-grade student at Hathaway Brown School in Shaker Heights, Ohio. Arya began learning piano at the age of four. She develops her skills and techniques under the tutoring of Cynthia Crotty. Arya has won a number of regional, national and international piano competitions in classical piano over the years. Arya has been a regular performer at Carnegie Hall, with ten performances, and performed in Isaac Stern Auditorium after winning many international competitions. Arya was invited to a music study to Europe with a scholarship for a 10-day period and also performing in Germany, Salzburg, and Italy. Arya has also performed at Mozarteum Salzburg, Austria in June of 2017. Arya was also invited to perform at GLÄSERNER SAAL, Vienna. Arya was awarded "The Confucius Institute Award for Distinguished Performance of Chinese Music" at a Chinese competition held in Cleveland. Arya also



enjoys playing chess and competes in chess competitions.

Sonia Gomes

Sonia Gomes is 17 years old and lives in the suburbs of Philadelphia, where she currently attends 11th grade. Sonia started studying music at the Nelly Berman School of Music at the age of 7 and she plays both piano and trumpet. Sonia is a piano student of Ms. Natalia Varlashova. Sonia has been awarded First and Second places in numerous solo piano competitions, including the “Elite International Music Competition” and “Crescendo International’s Little Mozart’s Competition”, which allowed her to perform several times at Carnegie Hall. Over the last couple of years, she participated in a few online competitions, placing first place at the BAMA US International Open Music Competition, the Grand Metropolitan International Music Competition, in the 2021 Quebec Music Competition and the Rocky Mountain Music Competition. She recently played at the Royal Albert Hall in London, by winning “First Prize + Exceptional Young Talent Special Prize Winner” in the Grand Prize Virtuoso International Music Competition. She also placed first in the Sempre Musick concerto competition and is scheduled to play with the Sempre Musick Orchestra in June 2022.



Richard Yeh

Richard Yeh is a three-time Provincial champion of Ontario, a three-time national finalist at the Canadian Music Competition, and in 2019 alone, has won sixteen First Places and scholarships from Kiwanis, Markham, NewMarket, Steinway & Sons, Yips, Crescendo, Elite, OYMI, and GOCAA, etc. Richard is a constant guest at many concerts, including the City of Markham as a special guest pianist at its’ 2019 Performing Arts Award. Richard has performed at many prestigious venues in Canada and United States, including the Meridian Arts Centre in Toronto, and Carnegie Hall in New York. Richard has been featured with multiple symphony orchestras including the Milton Philharmonic, the CAST, Orchestra Toronto, and Northumberland Philharmonic. This summer, Richard is invited to tour and perform in several major cities in China. Richard is a scholarship student at the Taylor Academy at the Royal Conservatory of Music, studying under the tutelage of Prof. Li Wang.



Alyssa Wang

Alyssa Wang is a junior at Holton-Arms School. She is the 2019 first-prize winner and 2018 second-prize winner of the American Protégé International Piano and Strings competition. She won Music-Fest 2019 Rising Talents Grand Prix award and 3 Years Carnegie Hall award. Starting her piano studies at six years old, Alyssa won the Maryland State Music Teacher piano competition every year including First Prizes in 2019, 2018, 2016, 2014 and 2012. She is a five-time winner of the Miriam Gottlieb Shields Competition. She has been working on



music theory and has passed the level 9 MSMTA theory exam. Additionally, breaking the record of her school, she challenges herself every year starting from 5th grade to play self-composed music with her violin partner in school creativity event which is designed for high school students. Outside of her music interests, she enjoys playing golf and Ice Hockey, she won national champion in golf tournament and regional ice hockey champion.

Sophia Luo

Sophia Luo was born in Northern California and started piano at the age of 6. Since that time, she has performed professionally and received 5 top awards in the Baroque Festival. She participated in the Music Teachers Assoc. of California's (MTAC) state Certificate of Merit (CM) program. This past year, she received state honors. Through MTAC's Composers Today, Sophia's original composition, "Ineffable," was selected for the state convention symposium. As official accompanist for Orinda Intermediate School, she garnered three superior awards at California Music Educators Assoc.'s (CMEA) choral festival. Outside the Classical world, Sophia is passionate about Broadway musicals and contemporary Christian music. She strives to serve through music and sang in worship ensembles throughout Hawaii, Taiwan, and Italy. Sophia is immersed in singing, dancing, and performing as a freshman at Miramonte High School. She is a student of Elena Bai Pang.



Karen Salicath Jamali

Karen Salicath Jamali is a multi-award-winning composer, pianist, and professional American artist. It wasn't until an accident that caused a head injury and a near-death experience that Karen started to play music. Previously had never played the Piano, the head injury amazingly opened up a new world, and she began to play and compose beautiful and meditative music. After 6 years of playing The result are 7Albums & 2500+ compositions and a million listeners. She just released a new album "Hope of Angels, latest Album "Sound of Angels" was chosen for the Grammy® Consideration 2021 for Best Contemporary Instrumental Album & For Album of The Year. The Times wrote, "The Brilliant composer and performer are devoted to bringing something entirely refreshing and unparalleled to the audience that will express her boundless imagination and artistic with impeccable precision". Educated at The Royal Danish AcademyOfFineArt, SchoolOfDesign 1991, Participated in 180+ exhibitions throughout the world.



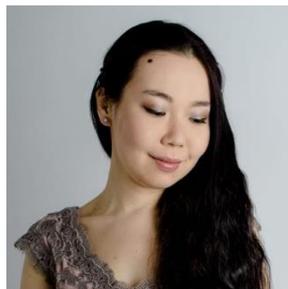
Jeffray Tsai

Jeffray Tsai has been highly regarded for his passionate and emotional playing. He has attended prestigious summer programs such as Boston University Tanglewood Institute and Brevard Music Center. Jeffray has won prizes in competitions throughout the world and has performed in venues including Carnegie Hall in New York, NY and Steinway Center in Taipei, Taiwan. He has also studied composition and is an activist for new music. Some influential artists he has worked with before including the Jack Quartet, John Harbison, George Tsontakis, Samuel Adler, Krystian Zmora, and Martha Argerich. Jeffray's primary teachers include Gila Goldstein, Yukiko Sekino, Chia-Chi Hsu, Rodney Lister, Martin Amlin, and Whitman Brown. For high school, Jeffray attended Walnut Hill School for the Arts, a private arts high school that is affiliated with New England Conservatory. Jeffray holds a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics – Statistics from Boston University.



Aliya Turetayeva

Aliya Turetayeva graduated from the prominent Mozarteum University, Salzburg and from the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Cologne under the tutelage of Professor Gililov. Aliya appeared at many festivals including the Verao Classico Festival, Aurora Classic Festival, Gstaad New Year Music Festival and has performed at major international venues such as the Steinway Hall London, Edvard Grieg Museum Troidhaugen, Elgar Room Royal Albert Hall, Carnegie Hall, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Beethoven-Haus Bonn and Kaisersaal in Vienna. Aliya is a prizewinner of the International Piano Competition for Young Pianists by V. Krainev, the North International Music Competition and the Feurich International Piano Competition in Vienna, Austria. Her other distinctions include winning the Meissen Rotary Club Award at the Meissen International Music Academy and an Honorable Mention Award at Bradshaw & Buono International Piano Competition in New York. She additionally worked with many celebrated musicians including Mikhail Voskresensky, Andrzej Jasinski and Graham Scott.



Allison Louis

Allison Louis is a vibrant eleven-year-old who loves to compose and to song-write. She especially likes composing music and lyrics on-the-fly after finding just that “right” key signature or chord. She commenced classical piano instruction at age 4 and shortly thereafter began playing music that she had heard only once or twice strictly by ear. Born and raised in Vancouver, Allison has composed in several genres including pop, classical and jazz. She has also explored several instruments including piano, upright bass, violin and cajón. Allison has performed across the Lower Mainland and was fortunate enough to perform in New York at the Jane Elissa



Extravaganza, an annual Broadway Stars fundraiser for Leukemia and Cancer Research, in 2018 and 2019. She is also one of the youngest artists ever to play a 30-minute set of original music at the legendary Greenwich Village club, “The Bitter End”.

Claire Ko

Claire Ko, nine years old, is a fourth grader at Maple Grove School in Vancouver, British Columbia. Claire began playing the piano at the age of four. She has won numerous “Best of Class” awards at BCCM music festivals since 2016. In December 2018, Claire performed at the Red Ribbons 4 Life (RR4L) fundraising event in Surrey, BC. In November 2019, Claire performed along with numerous professional performers at The Jane Elissa Extravaganza in New York, A Benefit for Leukemia & Cancer Research and BCEFA. Claire is very excited to make her first performance in a Piano and Upright Bass Duo at the winner’s recital of the American Protégé Summer Gala Concert 2020.



The Sister’s Duo

The Sister’s Duo is a chamber music group comprising of two sisters, cellist Srijani Bhattacharya (b. April 2005) and violist Sharani Bhattacharya (b. October 2006). Both sisters began music instruction at age four in the Pacale Music Institute and joined the Los Angeles Children’s Orchestra at age six. They have been principal cellist and principal violist, respectively, of the Los Angeles Children’s Orchestra and Los Angeles Children’s Chamber Orchestra and have performed in many important venues, such as the Dorothy Chandler Pavillion in Los Angeles Music Center, Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration broadcasted in PBS, America’s Got Talent in Nokia Theater and numerous community events. Both Srijani and Sharani have won several international competitions as soloists and have also soloed with orchestras in Europe and United States. They have attended summer programs in the National Cello Institute (2016), the Montecito International Music Festival (2017) on scholarships and played in masterclasses for eminent musicians. This is their debut recital as a chamber music group.



Edward Ye

Edward Ye, twelve, is currently a seventh-grade student at Weston Middle School. He began playing violin at the age of four, studying with Mr. Shan Jiang. Edward has won prizes from many national competitions including Second Place in the Deborah Kahan Competition in 2019 and First Place in the Little Mozart also in 2019. He was in the first violin section of the New England Youth Symphony and has performed in many places including David Geffen Hall in Lincoln Center, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, and annual performances in the United Nations. Besides playing violin Edward enjoys playing piano as part of his musical endeavor; he also loves playing tennis.



Yoojun Curtis Lee

Yoojun first picked up his violin in 2018 when he joined Suzuki ensemble in school at the age of 6. He quickly grew to love violin performances. Yoojun also joined the Kid's Philharmonic Singapore Orchestra at the end of the year as one of its youngest members. In 2019, he joined NAFA's school of young talent (Gifted Violin Course) and began his study under Ms. Helena Dawn Yah. Throughout the 3 years of violin journey, Yoojun was able to join in various solo performances, master classes as well as orchestra performances in venues like Victoria Concert Hall and Lee Foundation Theatre.



Anna Hu

Anna Hu began learning violin when she was seven with Mr. Que Yang in Johns Creek, Georgia. She has participated in Georgia's All State Orchestra for five years and the Fulton County Honor Orchestra for three years. She has won third prize in the American Protégé Piano and Strings Competition in 2015. In the summer of 2017, she performed solo with the Sichuan State Philharmonic.



Honor Frisco

Honor Frisco, 17, is a pianist and violinist from Palos Verdes Estates, California. Honor's piano accomplishments include First Place State Winner of the California Association of Professional Music Teachers (CAPMT) Contemporary Competition, Silver medalist in the Southern California Junior Bach Festival Competition, and winner of the Music Teachers Association of California Artists of the Future Competition. Awards for violin include Absolute First Prize in the Canadian International Music Competition, Second Prize in the Enkor International Competition, and First Prize winner in the CAPMT Concerto Competition. Honor made his Carnegie Hall piano and violin solo debuts at the American Protege International Competition of Romantic Music winner's recital in 2021. Additionally, Honor was chosen as a member of Carnegie Hall's National Youth Orchestra, NYO2 and the Tanglewood Institute Young Artists Orchestra. Honor recently performed with the LA Opera Orchestra and will perform as a soloist at Disney Hall this summer.



Qiu Han “Cynthia” Wang

Qiu Han “Cynthia” Wang is a first-class honours recipient of the Royal Conservatory of Music level 3 exam. She passed her Technical Requirements, Ear Tests, and Sight Singing with full marks. She has performed at the Chinese New Year Festival, at Tom Lee in 2016, and has starred in two of her school’s music performances. She has been serving children in singing time in church for over three years. She has been taking voice lessons with Jessica Zhang since the ripe age of nine. After moving to LA, she continued her voice lessons in OC Music & Dance in LA pursuing her passion for music. She was chosen as a second-place winner (Classical Repertoire Category) in the American Protégé International Vocal Competition in 2019 and was given the pleasure of performing at Carnegie Hall.



Annie Li

Annie Li is a thirteen-year-old middle schooler from Sammamish, Washington. Annie loves singing and ballet. She began singing at four and taking voice lessons at seven. Annie has been active in singing competitions in the U. S. Pacific Northwest and has won numerous awards. In January 2020, Annie won First Place at the 2020 Washington State Youth Talent Competition. In 2019, she won First Place at the Seattle Chinese Talent Show singing competition. In 2018, Annie won Second Place at the Chinese Central TV Station youth singing competition and was invited to Beijing to compete in the final round. In 2017, Annie won First Place at National Association of Teachers of Singing Puget Sound Region voice competition for her age group. She also won First Place at Performance Arts Festival of Eastside voice competition.



Yan He

Yan (Nikki) He, resident of Vancouver BC, has always enjoyed singing since her youth. In the past, she appreciated popular music more but after having recently received formal vocal training, she discovered the charm of classical and Broadway music and has rekindled her passion for singing. In her teenage years, she would perform and record her music as her hobby. Now that she is a young adult, she has more time to fulfill her dream of performing as a vocalist. Although she had a late start in studying voice, she believes that the charm of music is endless and powerful. She wishes to convey happiness through her music.



Zhenjie He

Zhenjie (Jack) He, 17, is a senior at St. George's Senior School in Vancouver, Canada. His beloved pastimes include singing, acting and reciting Shakespeare. For extra-curricular, he does rowing, and the adventures he encounters on the water are unforgettable. He enjoys singing as much as he does with rowing, mainly because he finds it heartfelt. Ever since Zhenjie witnessed the Broadway musical "Hamilton," he fell in love with singing. To him, every word conveys a story. Zhenjie has always wanted to tell his story, whether through writing or his acting. He has discovered that sometimes voices can penetrate people, and it is in the power of their voices that they can truly revolutionize the world. In 2019, Zhenjie achieved 2nd place in the Magnum Opus International Speech and Drama Competition where he was invited to perform at Carnegie Hall.



Kayla Silverman

Kayla Silverman is an eighteen-year-old singer/songwriter from Weston, Massachusetts. Kayla is classically trained, earning an ABRSM Certification with Distinction. This is her fourth performance at Carnegie Hall, awarded first place winner at the 2019 Golden Classical International Music Competition where she was awarded the recognition of "Exceptional Young Talent" and for the American Protégé International Music Competition. Of her 26 theater performances, notable roles include Cosette in *Les Misérables* and Soloist in *Godspell*. Kayla has also been singing and composing pop songs. Her EP of original songs is titled *I Believe*. The 2018 LA Film Award named Kayla's music video duet, *Outside Looking In*, "Best Song." She was a pop vocalist at the 2019 BBYO International Convention Opening Ceremonies to an audience of 6,000 people. It was a thrill for Kayla to be chosen as a First Place Winner of 2018 American Protégé We Sing Pop! International Contest.



Matthew Vallero

Matthew Vallero is now 12 years old and remembers singing as soon as he could talk. He has enjoyed lessons for classical, musical theater, and pop music for the past few years. Matthew is active in local musical theaters, enjoying numerous lead and supporting roles. His favorite role was Lumiere in *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* During the pandemic, he was active in musical videos supporting the role of public health recommendations and vaccines. With pandemic restrictions lifting, he has had the recent honor of singing at the Weill Auditorium at Carnegie Hall. Singing at the Stern Auditorium today is a dream come true! He would like to thank his music teachers and his family, especially his mom and dad. They supported him every step of the way!



Amy Jisun Ahn

Amy Jisun Ahn is a classical and jazz pianist, vocalist, composer, arranger, and educator. She loves to improvise and incorporate various styles. She holds a Master's degree in music composition from Queens College and a M.Phil from the Graduate Center CUNY as well as a Master's Diploma from the Korean National University of Arts, with degrees in private law and music theory from Seoul National University. She taught musicianship and piano courses at CCNY as well as in Korea. As a composer, her compositions have been performed by Cygnus, the Intercontemporain Ensemble, and the Second Instrumental Group, among others.



Juliette Hassan

Juliette Hassan is a kind, vibrant, confident and passionate nine-year-old girl who loves to sing. She is a force of nature, determined to pursue her dreams and one day become a professional singer. As part of the Westmount Broadway crew, she has played various roles in short versions of different musicals such as Mathilda and Grease and performed various solo pop and Broadway songs. Juliette is also an award-winning young artist at the Festival Musique Jeunesse 2019 (Québec, Canada). Juliette takes piano lessons at l'École de musique Vincent d'Indy. Having a strong musical background is something she understands well and she applies herself and is eager to learn. Signing brings her extreme contagious joy which she loves to spread around. Juliette lives in Montreal with her very supportive parents and her older brother. Juliette is fluent in English, French and Spanish.



Joonmo Koo

Joonmo Koo, 17, is currently attending Seoul Foreign School in South Korea and has shown both interest and talent in various fields of music ever since he received a recognition and an acting award in the JTF (Junior Theatre Festival) in 2014. His accomplishments during his first two years in high school reflect his everlasting passion for theatre and singing. Not only has he played leading roles in every school production he's participated in since grade 8, he received top acting awards (awarded by school arts department) two years in a row and has shown his competency both in and out of school. He's received a platinum award in the KIMEA (Korea International Music Educators Association) Solo & Ensemble Competition in the year 2021, a blue ribbon (highest rank) in the AMIS Solo & Ensemble Competition (2021), a gold medal in the KIMEA Solo Vocal Competition in 2020, a 3rd place ranking (with special recognition) in the Korean American Music Association (KAMA) Musical Vocal Competition, and an invitation to perform in the 2021 American Protégé Summer Gala Concert in the Stern Carnegie Hall.



Julia Kartvelishvili

Julia Kartvelishvili is a vivacious 11 year old soprano from Iowa, USA. Music is Julia's life. Even at the age of 2 Julia would love to listen to classical music and opera, which would soothe her. Julia started to take voice lessons at the age of 6. She loves to perform to audiences and has performed at multiple local events. Julia also placed well in various voice competitions including Bellagrande International Music Competition, American Protege vocal competition, NATS, and Hal Leonard vocal competition. She is very excited to perform in Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage! In her free time she loves to play piano and flute. Julia also composes and writes songs, and has already composed multiple pieces. She enjoys singing classical arias, musical theater, and pop. Julia also loves animals and wants to be involved in big cat conservation when she is older.



Ciana Tzuo

Ciana Tzuo has loved performing since the first time she stepped onto the stage, singing Food Glorious Food from Oliver. Her performances since have included piano, ballet, chorus, and musical theater. She played little Sherie in a local, professional production of Rock of Ages in Shanghai, and amateur solo performances in Chicago, Smile, Matilda and Our Town. Ciana has trained at the Manhattan School of Music, Broadway Artists Alliance, Joffrey Ballet, Ballet Academy East, and New York Vocal Coaching. She's won multiple Excellent Gold and Silver Awards in multiple International piano and vocal competitions. Ciana was born in 2009 in San Francisco, and spent the last 5 years in Shanghai attending a local primary school. She recently moved to NYC to attend Horace Mann in the Bronx. Outside of the performing arts, Ciana is active in golf, skiing, debate and leadership roles in the community.



Kantrapee Piriyaapul

Kantrapee Piriyaapul is from Thailand is ten years old and has been singing since she was five. She won many Top Prizes of international competitions in 2018. She won numerous First Place Winners from Salzburg Grand Prize Virtuoso International Music Competition 2018 in Salzburg Austria, American Portege' International Music Competition 2018 at Carnegie Hall New York in December and HKYPAF International Music Competition 2018 -2019 in Hongkong as the first place with the Gold Medal as well. She has passed the ABRSM Grade 1 and 3 Exams in Classical singing with distinction and Merit and she has also passed the Trinity Grade2 Exam in pop and rock with distinction and special high score award. In 2017 she has participated in Wekidthailand on TV Program in Thailand as a singer.



Allison Louis

Allison Louis is a vibrant eleven-year-old who loves to compose and to song-write. She especially likes composing music and lyrics on-the-fly after finding just that “right” key signature or chord. She commenced classical piano instruction at age 4 and shortly thereafter began playing music that she had heard only once or twice strictly by ear. Born and raised in Vancouver, Allison has composed in several genres including pop, classical and jazz. She has also explored several instruments including piano, upright bass, violin and cajón. Allison has performed across the Lower Mainland and was fortunate enough to perform in New York at the Jane Elissa Extravaganza, an annual Broadway Stars fundraiser for Leukemia and Cancer Research, in 2018 and 2019. She is also one of the youngest artists ever to play a 30-minute set of original music at the legendary Greenwich Village club, “The Bitter End”.



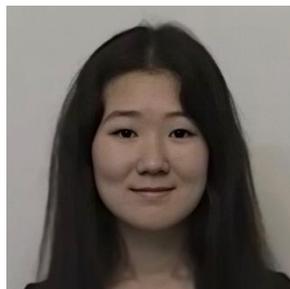
Yixin “Gem” Zhang

Yixin “Gem” Zhang has been studying opera since the age of eleven. She has received the RCM opera certificate and had the honor to be invited as a special guest for the Chinese New Year concert in Bell center. Furthermore, she was the youngest national anthem singing for the Canucks hockey team at Rogers Arena. And she has been singing the national anthem for two years. Gem has help raised ten thousand dollars for the Operation Smile Organization and she is always willing to help more children keep on smiling.



Aviela Chang

Aviela Chang is a 17 year old high school student in Southern California. She loves music, especially vocal performances. She began playing piano at the age of six and began singing when she was a baby. As part of the Southern California Children’s Choir, she performed on many occasions, including “Tis’ the Season” at Segerstrom Center of the Arts in Orange County, California. She attends private singing lessons with her teacher, MaiSui, and as part of MaiSui’s studio, she has performed in multiple locations, such as South Coast Plaza. Currently, she is a member of her school’s top choir. She won second place in the American Protégé International Vocal Competition 2020 in the intermediate category. She also won two first places in the American Protégé Vocal Competition 2021 in the intermediate category.



Victoria Whatley

Victoria Whatley is a sophomore at Fairhope High School in Alabama where she is involved in the honor choral ensemble, piano, and the theatre department. She is a singer and multi-instrumentalist. She has served as the Concert Master for the Baldwin County Youth Orchestra, First Violin for the Fairhope Strings Ensemble, the Alabama Orchestra Association All-State Festival, Gulf Coast Steinway Orchestra, Belmont String Crossings, & Sewanee Summer Music Festival. She is a past winner of the American Protégé International Strings Competition. Victoria is involved in Musical Theatre with lead roles in *Les Misérables*, *The Lion King*, *Shrek*, and *Alice in Wonderland*. A diverse performer, her genres include pop, Latin, gospel, country & classical. She performs at hospitals, charitable organizations, local and regional festivals. Victoria is also a member of the Fairhope Junior City Council, a 10-person group selected by the Mayor to promote civic duties and get youth involved in community events.



Naisha Agarwal

Naisha Agarwal is a fifteen-year-old singer in Saratoga, California. She began singing at the age of eleven and has been doing it ever since. In addition to performing at local places and venues, she also made it to the Top 20 of South Bay Idol out of one hundred and fifty applicants. She enjoys singing pop and Broadway repertoire, and plans to pursue music and singing in the future.



We thank all applicants and their families for their ambition and dedication to this endeavor. The American Protégé Organizational Committee is grateful to all the institutions, companies, and families, who provided support to the applicants.

American Protégé Organizational Committee:

Irina Ionova, Committee Chairwoman
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Alexandre Agaian, PhD, Administrative Director
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