

2014 MTAC San Mateo Scholarship Winners



DARA PHUNG, age fifteen, is a sophomore at Burlingame High School. She has been taking piano lessons with Ms. Sumi Nagasawa since she was five, and violin lessons from Eric Leong since the age of eight. Dara was a first prize winner in the CMTANC International Youth Music Competition, the US Open Music Competition's Showcase Piano Solo division, the US New Star Etude Competition, and the San Mateo County Fair Classical Piano Competition. This year, Dara was selected to perform in the Junior Bach

Festival. She also joined the El Camino Youth Symphony's senior orchestra as a first violinist. However, Dara's musical interests are not only apparent in classical piano, for she also enjoys playing jazz and ragtime pieces. She has won multiple awards from the West Coast Ragtime Society's Youth Piano Competition in 2011 and 2012. As a member of her school jazz band, Dara has travelled to Nevada to perform at the Reno Jazz Festival. In the summers of 2013 and 2014, she participated in the Stanford Jazz Workshop, a week-long camp that she immensely enjoyed for its easygoing and exciting master classes. Dara aspires to become a better jazz musician by learning and practicing improvisation techniques and experimenting with jazz violin.



IRIS WU, age 13, began piano lessons at the age of five. She loves music and enjoys playing piano and composing music pieces. She has won numerous prizes in piano competitions including US Open, CMEA, CM Exam, and San Mateo Country Fair. She won three 2nd place prizes, a 3rd place prize, and two 4th place prizes in US Open piano competitions. She also received a superior rating in Solo Ensemble in CMEA (violin and piano). In Certificate of Merit Level 9 Exam for piano, Iris received a

5+++ rating for her performance.

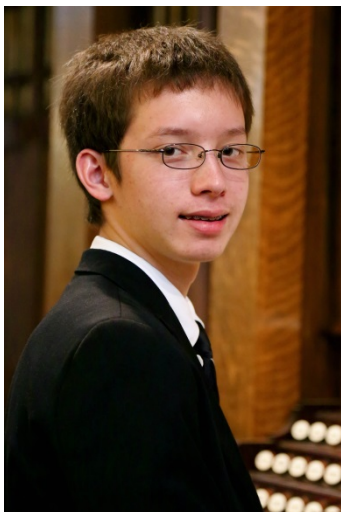
Iris has dedicated much effort and time in musical community services. She has enjoyed performing for several senior citizen homes. She has also been actively participating in her teacher's studio project, Musical Bridges, which promote music education in schools that lack sufficient funding. In last two years, over 1,000 school children in San Mateo schools have benefited from Musical Bridges Program. In addition, the project raised enough money to purchase a new Boston piano for Redwood Shores Elementary School. The piano helped Belmont choirs and PYO orchestras comprising of Sinfonia, Nova, and PYA.

Besides piano, Iris also loves violin. She began studying violin at the age of nine. Since 2013, Iris has been the concertmaster at Ralston Middle School Advanced Chamber Orchestra and assistant concertmaster at PYO Nova. Due to her talent in piano and violin, Iris was selected to participate in Summer Music West at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in 2014. It was such a privilege for Iris to be one of the recipients of the MTAC San Mateo branch scholarship in 2014. In addition to music, Iris also enjoys literature, art, philosophy, volleyball, and track and field. Iris is truly passionate and has dedicated much effort to develop her musical studies – to explore exciting advanced repertoire, sharing and spreading the immense joy of music in wide communities.



LUCAS MUNRO

Violist Lucas Munro is 17 years old and attends Gunn High School in Palo Alto. This fall Lucas will begin his sixth season with Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra (PACO). He is in his fifth year of viola studies with Minsook Kang at the Crestmont Conservatory of Music in San Mateo. Lucas began studying violin when he was six but quickly switched over to viola. He loves to get together with his friends and listen to music of all kinds, but he is passionate about playing chamber music. Lucas intends to continue to improve his viola playing as a means of self-expression and enjoyment for the rest of his life. He is actively involved with helping others through community service and has accumulated a total of over 700 hours in the last three years. He received the Presidential Service Award for his community service. His most memorable activity was a trip to Taiwan to teach English to a group of underprivileged indigenous middle school students in the summer of 2013.



ETHAN HAMAN, age 16, is currently a senior in the Music and Arts Magnet program at Irvington High School in Fremont. He has studied piano since the age of four and studied piano with Amy Watt in Newark until April 2014. Ethan has studied organ since 2008 with Angela Kraft Cross, and has performed in Berkeley's Junior Bach Festival on organ for the past six years. He has played full organ concerts in San Francisco, Los Altos, Salinas, Reno, and Harvard University and has played shared concerts with fellow young organists at Stanford University, Oberlin Conservatory and in Paris, France. Ethan has also performed

for such notable teachers as Robert Huw Morgan, the late Gerre Hancock, Samuel Soria, Davitt Moroney, John Karl Hirten, Christopher Houlihan, Christoph Mantoux, Louis Robilliard, Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin, Frédéric Blanc and Marie-Louise Langlais. He earned his Colleague of the American Guild of Organists (CAGO) credential in April 2013. Ethan has served as organist at Christ Church Los Altos for the past three years, and his composition Fugue on "Old 100th" was composed and premiered at the church's centennial celebration in April 2013. He has also performed his own compositions in Composers' Forums for both the San Francisco and the Palo Alto/Peninsula AGO chapters, and his compositions are currently being published by sheetmusicplus.com. Among other instruments, he enjoys playing French Horn and Clarinet in his high school band as well as studying foreign languages, currently speaking English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Cantonese.

Thanks to the aid provided by the 2014 MTAC San Mateo Branch Scholarship, Ethan was able to visit two renowned conservatories, Oberlin Conservatory in Oberlin, OH, and the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY from July 5 to 19. At the Oberlin Conservatory, he attended the Oberlin Conservatory Summer Organ Academy, where along with 20 other young organists, took organ lessons with resident conservatory organ professors James David Christie and Jonathan Moyer and with guest renowned French organists Marie-Louise Langlais and Sylvie Mallet as well as beginning harpsichord lessons, attended masterclasses, watched organ concerts, and was able to play the 24 different organs in Oberlin. During the second week of Ethan's trip, he went to Rochester, NY where he took campus tours of the Eastman School of Music and its partner school, the University of Rochester. At the Eastman School of Music, he was able to meet all five of the organ professors there and play the many organs of the Eastman School of Music and the greater Rochester area. Ethan is very grateful to the San Mateo MTAC Branch for making it possible for him to visit these schools.



KARINA TSENG, age 12, is a 7th grade student at Ralston Middle School in Belmont. She has studied piano with Sujeeva Hapugalle for six years. Karina has won numerous prizes in local competitions, including first prize in the 2014 Bay Area Music Legacy Open Competition, second prize at the 2013 San Francisco Chopin Competition, second runner up at the 2013 Menuhin/Dowling Competition, and first prize (Showcase recital category) and second prize at the 2013 US Open Music Competition. Her consequent performance at the

US Open Winners' Concert earned her an "Outstanding Gold Medalist Award." She has been actively involved in benefit concerts in the community which have raised funds for the San Francisco Symphony Education Program via her teacher's "Musical Bridges" Program and the SF Symphony Upper Peninsula League, and has also enjoyed playing at MTAC Community Outreach Concerts. Her community service, outside music, have included assisting in fundraising for her school district's education foundation, and helping out at service projects organized by her church. Alongside piano, Karina treasures reading and playing violin in her school's chamber orchestra.

This past summer, Karina participated in the Summer Music West String and Piano Academy at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Her piano trio was honored to be the only student ensemble selected to perform at Summer Music West's 30th Anniversary Concert. This experience broadened Karina's perspective of music, and now she looks forward to future ensemble opportunities. Her main musical goal is, through dedicated study and expression of music, to spread enjoyment and happiness to unique and diverse audiences.

Karina cherished and respected the opportunity to work towards the MTAC Scholarship Program that encourages and opens doors to serving our community through music. The scholarship made a valued contribution to the exciting study of Chamber Music. Thank You!