



Congratulations to our Class of 2017 Graduating Seniors!

Lindsey Aaronson, *horn*

Years in MYA: 2 Years

School: Eastman School of Music

Anticipated Major: Music Education & Horn Performance

Most Memorable Moment at MYA: After my first chamber rehearsal ever, the five of us walked to a park in Fort Sheridan. I bonded with members of my quintet and met some of my best friends.

"Can I take this down an octave?"

Daniel Aisenberg, *clarinet*

Years in MYA: 3 Years

School: Indiana University - Jacobs School of Music

Anticipated Major: Clarinet Performance

Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Performing on the Millennium Park stage for the Lang Lang concert.

"Where's Torin?"

Kasia Ashwill, *violin*

Years in MYA: 3 Years

School: Purdue University

Anticipated Major: Biomedical Engineering

Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Going to Chicago with my chamber group to perform in a master class and eat sushi.

Torin Bakke, *clarinet*

Years in MYA: 9 Years

School: Manhattan School of Music

Anticipated Major: Clarinet Performance

Most Memorable Moment at MYA: The house filled with goats, rabbits, horses, and five other MYA kids in the Netherlands.

"Horny Toads"

Dylan Barnett, *guitar*

Years in MYA: 1 Year

School: DePaul University School of Music

Anticipated Major: Jazz Studies

Sam Barr, *double bass*

Years in MYA: 1 Year

School: Oberlin College & Conservatory

Anticipated Major: Jazz Studies & Computer Science

Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Playing Lady Bird in Gb.

"Jazz is the devil's music."

Colin Besetzny, *cello*

Years in MYA: 4 Years

School: Holy Cross College in Notre Dame, Indiana

Anticipated Major: Business/Music

Most Memorable Moment at MYA: The mall Christmas concerts.

"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take." -Wayne Gretzky

Ezra Brown, *trombone*

Years in MYA: 1 Year

School: University of Michigan

Anticipated Major: Undecided

Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Playing the 4th movement of Symphony Fantastique.

"I really wished I joined MYA sooner. I have really grown as a musician in my short time here."

Henry Carpender, *trombone*

Years in MYA: 2.5 Years

School: Eastman School of Music

Anticipated Major: Applied Music in Classical and Jazz Trombone Performance

Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Playing in the main pavilion at Ravinia as a volunteer over the summer.

"Without deviation from the norm, progress is not possible"

Courtney Cazzola, *oboe*

Years in MYA: 1 Year

School: University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

Anticipated Major: Pre-Chiropractic

Most Memorable Moment at MYA: When we all played happy birthday for Dr. Dennis at the Christmas Concert.

"Stay productive and keep with the winds."

Lucy Chavez, *oboe*

Years in MYA: 3 Years

School: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Anticipated Major: Pre-Law Studies

Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Realizing that all of my best friends on Snapchat are people from MYA.

"Yike."

Grace Chu, *violin*
Years in MYA: 6 Years
School: Boston University
Anticipated Major: Marine Biology & Violin Performance
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: "When we went to the Netherlands and France, I was fairly new to MYA so I made a bunch of new friends!"
"Don't sit there fat dumb and happy; if it doesn't sound right, fix it!"

Alice Chudnovsky, *violin*
Years in MYA: 3 Years
School: Undecided
Anticipated Major: Pure Mathematics and Linguistics
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Every rehearsal with Dr. Dennis.
"HIT THE MOTHER!"

Daniel Cohen, *percussion*
Years in MYA: 3 Years
School: Columbia University
Anticipated Major: Philosophy

Denzel Ryan Cruz, *percussion*
Years in MYA: 2 Years
School: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Anticipated Major: Bioengineering
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Breaking drum heads with our heads during our chamber performance.
"Were you rushing, or were you dragging?"

Emiel De Jaegher, *trumpet*
Years in MYA: 5 Years
School: Eastman School of Music/University of Rochester
Anticipated Major: Jazz Studies and Neuroscience
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Going on the MYA Europe Tour to France and Netherlands and playing our last jazz concert.
"Don't practice until you get it right, practice until you can't get it wrong"

Webb Dieter, *double bass*
Years in MYA: 1 Year
School: DePaul University
Anticipated Major: Jazz Performance
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: First day of MYA!
Cruelty has a human heart and jealousy a human face.
-William Blake

John-Michael Diveris, *voice*
Years in MYA: 6 Years
School: Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
Anticipated Major: Economics
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: VR Concert in Carnegie Hall with Gary Fry!

Daniel Drake, *tuba*
Years in MYA: 2 Years
School: Illinois Wesleyan University
Anticipated Major: Music Education
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Dr. Dennis conducting the holiday concert in jeans because he couldn't find his dress pants.
"Don't just sit there fat, dumb, and happy!"

Katharina Ehni, *cello*
Years in MYA: 7 Years
School: National Taiwan University/Michigan State University
Anticipated Major: Supply Chain Management
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Using Dr. D as a seat belt and holding onto him for dear life as we rode the Metro in Paris.
"I have been diagnosed with cello bow disease..."

Alec Elston, *double bass*
Years in MYA: 6 Years
School: Undecided (Cornell University, Grinnell and Reed)
Anticipated Major: Undecided
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: When we played all of Haydn 10 without a conductor. That concert was great!
"We don't make mistakes. Only happy little accidents." -Bob Ross

Emma Gaida, *violin*
Years in MYA: 6 Years
School: Undecided
Anticipated Major: Biology/Pre-med
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: My first day of Symphony Orchestra I was super nervous, but now I look forward to every Saturday.
"Some people have lives; some people have music." -John Green

Sam Gascoigne, *piano*
Years in MYA: 1 Year
School: Lake Forest College
Anticipated Major: Biology/Music
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Jazz Combo Concert

Isabella Goldman, *horn*
Years in MYA: 5 Years
School: University of Alabama
Anticipated Major: Chemistry
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Performing Beethoven's 5th at Symphony Center.

Jake Gordon, *alto sax*
Years in MYA: 2 Years
School: Vanderbilt University
Anticipated Major: Undecided
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Performing at All-State with the Big Band.

Elizabeth Han, *viola*
Years in MYA: 1 Year

Lauren Jacobson, *cello*
Years in MYA: 8 Years
School: University of Iowa
Anticipated Major: Elementary Education
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Performing Don Juan with Symphony Orchestra.

Christina James, *voice*
Years in MYA: 3 Years
School: Belmont University
Anticipated Major: Entertainment Industry Studies
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Singing at Orchestra Hall with Voices Rising for the Welcome Yule and Merry Merry shows.
"When in doubt, write it out in a song."

Erik Johnson, *trombone*
Years in MYA: 2 Years
School: Mississippi State
Anticipated Major: Forestry: Wildlife Management
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Playing at Millenium Park for the summer concert in 2015 was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I could never possibly forget.
"The difference in myself from the first day I was at MYA to now is extraordinary. As a musician and person, MYA has nurtured an immense amount of my improvements."

Brynn Keller, *cello*
Years in MYA: 7 Years
School: Macalester University
Anticipated Major: Physics
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Dr. Dennis' warm reception after I had spent a brief period in the hospital, missing a rehearsal.
"Tutti!" -Mr. Pearson

Jack Kotze, *trombone*
Years in MYA: 1 Year
School: Manhattan School of Music
Anticipated Major: Jazz Trombone
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Performing with Ingrid Jensen at "Jazz in January."

Rachel Kwon, *flute*
Years in MYA: 4 Years
School: Univeristy of Wisconsin Madison
Anticipated Major: Elementary Education
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: In my first year of MYA, we had the chance of performing without Dr. Dennis, and it was one of my favorite moments in my high school career.
"Why you rush???" -Dr. Dennis

Kaitlin Lambert, *trombone*
Years in MYA: 4.5 Years
School: Oberlin Conservatory of Music
Anticipated Major: Trombone Performance
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Making a deal with Mr. Madsen where if I wore a ball gown to rehearsal (Which I did) he would have to show up the following rehearsal in a tuxedo (Which he did).
"It needs to sound more like celery!" - Mr. Madsen

Finley Lau, *percussion*
Years in MYA: 6 Years
School: Northwestern University
Anticipated Major: Percussion Performance & Applied Math
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Rooming with six other people during the France/Netherlands tour.
"Put all 90 pounds into it!" Dr. Dennis

Jeffrey Lee, *clarinet*
Years in MYA: 3 Years
School: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Anticipated Major: Engineering
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Playing Christmas songs in the malls.

Raymond Lor, *cello*
Years in MYA: 8 Years

Karime Maamari, *tenor sax*
Years in MYA: 1 Year
School: University of Southern California
Anticipated Major: Undecided
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Recording audition tapes with the Merit Combo.

Jacob Mehlman, *trumpet*
Years in MYA: 2 Years
School: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Anticipated Major: Business
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: When our bassist spontaneously tap danced during a Big Band performance.
"Every young Jazz musician must go through a J Dilla phase" -Mr. Madsen

Brandon Monsen, *trumpet*
Years in MYA: 2 Years
School: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Anticipated Major: Engineering/Physics
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Jazz In January with Ingrid Jensen.

Ayano Nakamura, *oboe*
Years in MYA: 1 Year
School: University of Michigan
Anticipated Major: Chemical Engineering

(Angela) HeeSeung Noh, *violin*

Years in MYA: 2 Years
School: Eastman School of Music
Anticipated Major: Violin Performance
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Playing and rehearsing the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with Ilya Kaler as soloist.

David O'Neill, *trumpet*
Years in MYA: 2 Years
School: University of North Texas
Anticipated Major: Music Education & Trumpet Performance
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Playing hangman in the warmup rooms with the Brass Quintet.
"Play like a trumpet player." -Dr. Dennis

Rachel Overby, *harp*
Years in MYA: 6 Years
School: NYU or University of Denver
Anticipated Major: Harp Performance and Environmental Science
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Playing Scheherazade in my first Symphony Orchestra Concert.

Jaryd Pacis, *trumpet*
Years in MYA: 4 Years
School: University of Michigan
Anticipated Major: Spanish and Biology
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: All of Mr. Madsen's accents.
"What did Mundelein consolidate from?"

Vincent Park, *clarinet*
Years in MYA: 2 Years
School: Indiana University
Anticipated Major: Management
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Tchaikovsky 5.
"Do the Mr. Pikler."

Emily Patzke, *violin*
Years in MYA: 4 Years
School: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Anticipated Major: Biology
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Chamber days - good times.
"You can really do anything you want, but it takes hard work."

Erika Pogorzelska, *saxophone*
Years in MYA: 2 Years
School: VanderCook College of Music
Anticipated Major: Music Ed
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Asking Mr. Madsen to sign his "Pop Art" CD that I bought

Henry Peters, *percussion*

Years in MYA: 3 Years
School: Princeton University
Anticipated Major: Percussion Performance and Computer Science

Luis F. Salazar, *viola, guitar*
Years in MYA: 11 Years
School: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Anticipated Major: Materials Engineering
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Playing at Millenium Park last year with Symphony Orchestra during the summer.
"Don't sit there fat dumb and happy; if it doesn't sound right, fix it!" -Dr. Dennis

Christopher Scheithauer, *trumpet*
Years in MYA: 4 Years
School: Undecided
Anticipated Major: Astronomy, Classics, and Philosophy
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Performing Shostakovich 5 at Symphony Center.
"This isn't Russian music. Why you rush?"

Peter Schulz, *piano*
Years in MYA: 6.5 Years
School: Purdue University
Anticipated Major: Engineering
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Playing Hang Gliding, and several others, on the May concert in 2014.
"C D Eb F D Bb C"

Luke Shimabukuro, *oboe*
Years in MYA: 3 Years
School: Lawrence University
Anticipated Major: Undecided
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Realizing that Symphony gets a longer break than concert.
"A finished reed is 70 millimeters in length and the part that you scrape is only from 47-70 millimeters. 23 millimeters define our existence." -Eugene Izotov

Sneha Sivaram, *bassoon*
Years in MYA: 2 Years
School: Rutgers University – New Brunswick
Anticipated Major: Biochemistry
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Playing Rite of Spring
"Don't tell my wife!" -Dr. Dennis

Kevin Snyder, *double bass*
Years in MYA: 2 Years
School: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Anticipated Major: Music Education
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Playing Tchaik 5 at my first concert. The people were so passionate and the level of love and skill was beyond anything I'd done before.
"Do or do not; there is no try." -Yoda

Peter Sparks, *violin*
Years in MYA: 9 Years

School: Carleton College
Anticipated Major: Math

Emily Valentin, *alto sax*
Years in MYA: 3 Years
School: Harvard College
Anticipated Major: Biology/undecided
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Setting up for the Music and Movement class with Alyssa, Matt, Henry, and Katie at the end of rehearsals.

Alexander von Rueden, *piano*
Years in MYA: 3 Years
School: University of Minnesota
Anticipated Major: Chemical Engineering
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: First performance at World of Beer.

Paul Wagner, *tenor sax*
Years in MYA: 2 Years
School: Undecided
Anticipated Major: Music Education
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: First MYA performance at Ravinia.
"What are the right notes to play in a solo?"

Emma Wen, *violin*
Years in MYA: 4 Years
School: Undecided
Anticipated Major: Political Science & Religious Studies
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: France-Netherlands tour of 2013.
"Why you r-r-rush?" -Dr. Dennis

Michael Werner, *trumpet*
Years in MYA: 6 Years
School: Gap year
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Touring France and the Netherlands
"The alluring grooves of J Dilla will always hold a place in my heart." - Chris Madsen

Gloria Wide, *viola*
Years in MYA: 1 Year
School: University of Wisconsin Madison
Anticipated Major: Music Education and/or Music Performance
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: My first MYAC concert in October, we played Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*.

Lucy Wu, *flute*
Years in MYA: 4 Years
School: Johns Hopkins University
Anticipated Major: Biomedical Engineering
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Playing Rite of Spring
"Hit the Mother!" -Dr. Dennis

Samantha Yang, *violin*
Years in MYA: 5 Years

Emily Yin, *violin*
Years in MYA: 1 Year
School: Indiana University
Anticipated Major: Violin Performance
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Learning from Mr. Van der Slout in a performance class - how he showed us a way to warm up in a zen-like manner; playing a slow scale while being aware of one's breathing; contact with the bow, violin, and string; center of balance; and positive thoughts.
MYA offers a well-rounded education and community for music lovers of all abilities. Though is has only been a year, MYA's supportive and committed students, faculty, and staff have had a great influence on me. I am grateful to be part of MYA.

Allen Yuan, *cello*
Years in MYA: 6 Years
School: Harvard or University of Chicago
Anticipated Major: Economics of Applied Mathematics or Computer Science
Most Memorable Moment at MYA: Playing The Rite of Spring and Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto at the first concert last year.
"Hit the mother!" -Dr. Dennis