

NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Midwest Young Artists
878 Lyster Road
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18th Annual Walgreens Youth National Solo Concerto Competition Set for December 28-29

HIGHWOOD, Ill. – Award-winning youth music school Midwest Young Artists (MYA) is accepting applications for its 18th Annual Walgreens Solo Concerto Competition for pre-college musicians, which will take place **December 28th and 29th, 2013** at the **MYA Center** and **Ravinia Festival**. Grade school to High School aged musicians are encouraged to register online to compete – The deadline for registration is December 1st, and prizes will be awarded for the best soloist in each category.

Competitors performing on strings, piano, brass instruments and voice will perform to win cash prizes, scholarships to the MYA school and summer camps, and the opportunity to perform with the MYA Symphony orchestra and *From the Top* radio program as a featured soloist. The Walgreens competition experience is priceless to young musicians preparing for auditions and the demands of a rewarding music career.

Walgreens Corporation's annual sponsorship of this event has enabled MYA to provide contestants with distinguished judges, a DVD recording of their performance, and personal written performance evaluations from the judges. Applications are being accepted online right now at: <http://www.mya.org/competition.php> The competition entry fee is \$55 for students not enrolled in MYA programs.

There are two **Divisions** in the contest: **MYA Orchestra Division (MYA Division)** and **Open Division**. Students in the MYA Division must be an active participant in the MYA Orchestra Program. All other entrants will participate in the Open Division (including students in MYA Chamber Music, Choral and Jazz Programs). There are two **Levels** in each **Division**:

1. **Junior**: for students in 8th grade and younger
2. **Senior**: for students in 9th through 12th grades

The competition is open to all instruments. Each **Level** is further divided into **Categories**:

- String
- Piano
- Voice
- Winds & Percussion
- Early Music

This event is free to observe and open to the public. For more information please visit the Competition homepage at www.mya.org/competition.php, or call (847) 926-9898. See concert footage at WMYA.fm

About MYA: Midwest Young Artists is a top rated youth music ensemble program and represents some of the best young musicians in the country. The program offers exceptional training in jazz, choral, chamber and orchestral instruction. MYA currently reaches more than 1,000 students from 74 communities in the metropolitan Chicago area with eight youth orchestras, more than 65 chamber music ensembles, four choral groups, an all-inclusive jazz program, a rock program, early childhood education, and classes in music theory and history. Students have the opportunity to travel abroad and to perform in major venues throughout Chicago

and around the world. MYA graduates are accepted at the most selective conservatories, universities and colleges in the country.

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