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Press Release

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Midwest Young Artists Conservatory Group wins Gold at National Chamber Music Competition

Notre Dame, IN - May 8, 2016 – For the 7th time in their 23 seasons, a chamber music ensemble out of Midwest Young Artists Conservatory in Highwood, IL won a Gold medal at The Fischhoff, the nation's largest chamber music competition. This year's winning group, Quartet Diamant, was made up of Masha Lakisova (violin), Natalie Clarke (viola), and Adam Lee (cello) all of Vernon Hills and Rebecca Moy (violin) of Naperville. They began rehearsing together back in August of 2015 and after some success in other competitions (an Honorable Mention at the Discover National Chamber Music Competition and a Silver Medal at the St. Paul String Quartet Chamber Music Competition) submitted their application to The Fischhoff.

The competition consists of a Senior String, Senior Wind, and Junior Division with over \$30,000 in prize money handed out. The Junior Division (for musicians eighteen and under) receives over 70 applications from ensembles around the country and invites 25 to Indiana to participate in a live Quarter-Final round. From there, 12 are selected to compete in a Semi-Final round the following day, until the list is whittled down to 3 in the Final round. MYA Conservatory sent 3 groups including Quartet Diamant to the live rounds, 2 of which made the semi-finals.

The group was coached throughout the year by Robert Bassill of Evanston, head of Chamber Music Program at MYAC and Orchestra Director of Lake Forest High School, as well as Lyudmila Lakisova of Vernon Hills, a professional pianist, accompanist, and teacher. Masha Lakisova is taught privately by Grigory Kalinovsky of Bloomington, IN, Rebecca Moy by Drew Lecher of Naperville, Natalie Clarke by Christine Due of Chicago, and Adam Lee by Hans Jørgen Jensen of Wilmette.

Midwest Young Artists Conservatory is a top rated youth music ensemble program and represents some of the best young musicians in the country. Located in historic Fort Sheridan, the program offers exceptional training in jazz, choral, chamber and orchestral instruction. MYA Conservatory currently reaches more than 1,000 students from 74 communities in the metropolitan Chicago area with nine youth orchestras, more than 65 chamber music ensembles, four choral groups, an all-inclusive jazz 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 Conservatory graduates are accepted at the most selective conservatories, universities and colleges in the country.

In the Junior Division, the Silver Medal was won by Noctis Quartet of New York, New York. The Bronze Medal (\$1,300) went to Vibrante String Quartet of The Academy of the Music Institute of Chicago, Evanston, Illinois. Members include Zachary Brandon (violin), Hannah White (violin), Freya Irani (viola), and Leevy Williams (cello). The Junior Division Wind Prize (\$500) was won by KGT of Merit School of Music, Chicago, Illinois. Members include Maddy Deanne (flute), Amer Hasan (clarinet), and Quincey Trojanowski (bassoon). Sponsored by the American Brass Quintet, this award honors the most outstanding wind ensemble in the Junior Division.



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From Left to Right: Adam Lee, Masha Lakisova, Rebecca Moy, Natalie Clarke
Photo Credit: Josef Samuel