

Midwest Young Artists



PRESS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Midwest Young Artists
878 Lyster Road
Highwood, IL 60040

Ben Solomonow: Nationally Broadcast, a ward winning cellist to appear on NPR's From The Top program; still too young to drive.

Like most teens, Ben Solomonow is waiting eagerly for a driver's license. Unlike most teens, the 15-year-old Principal Cellist of the Midwest Young Artists Symphony Orchestra and Evanston Township High School student will be featured on National Public Radio's *From The Top*, a nationally broadcast radio show, as well as locally on WFMT 98.7 FM on January 23. This popular program is hosted by renowned pianist Christopher O'Riley and highlights the accomplishments of elite young musicians nationwide. This episode, number 224, can also be accessed online via the *From The Top* website at www.fromthetop.org.

In addition to emerging victorious in the 2010 Walgreens National Concerto Competition's senior division, Ben is a fixture around the Midwest Young Artists campus in Highwood, Illinois. He hones his considerable musical skills at MYA, participating in a challenging yet fun schedule of intensive chamber music and rehearsals with the Symphony Orchestra, MYA's top group, where he sits as principal cello.

The episode on which Ben appears was recorded in front of a live audience at the Zoellner Arts Center at Lehigh University on Dec. 3, 2010. The up and coming Mr. Solomonow performed *Variations on a Paganini Theme* by Gregor Piatigorsky, accompanied by the host with the most, Christopher O'Riley on piano.

About MYA:

With a vision to create an exceptional environment for young musicians, **Midwest Young Artists (MYA)** was founded in 1993. MYA reaches over 900 students from more than 74 cities in the metropolitan Chicago area, with students ranging in age from 12 months through 12th grade. MYA strives to provide the highest quality music experience for young musicians nationwide. MYA expects the best out of its students and provides a supportive and nurturing environment. It is a place where students are able to grow with their peers in a competitive, yet friendly atmosphere. MYA has 9 youth orchestras, more than 60 chamber music ensembles, 4 choral groups, several jazz big bands, numerous jazz combos, honors wind symphony, early and new music ensembles, and early childhood music program and classes in music history, theory and composition. Students have the opportunity to travel abroad and to perform in major venues throughout Chicago and around the world. Leading the nation in chamber music instruction, MYA graduates are accepted at the most selective conservatories, universities and colleges in the country.

- For more information, please visit www.mya.org or call (847) 926-9898.
- Info about the *Walgreens Concerto Competition*: www.mya.org/competition.php
- **From the top**: Show 224, www.fromthetop.org
- Follow MYA on **Facebook** at: facebook.com/midwestyoungartists

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