

Thomas Sharp of Wilmette to Receive the 2015 Midwest Young Artists Take Note Award at March 14 Benefit

Thomas S. Sharp, of Wilmette, IL, will be honored at Midwest Young Artists (MYA) March 14 benefit at Evanston Golf Club. Tom has been involved with MYA since 1997, serving as President of the Board of Directors for the past ten years. All three of his children, Courtney, Madeleine and Andrew participated in MYA, noted nationally for its youth music ensemble programs. Courtney and Madeleine graduated with music degrees from Cleveland Institute of Music and Julliard, and are currently professional musicians.

Thomas is an avid classical music lover from high school days on when he won a solo competition performing Mozart Clarinet Concerto in Kettering, Ohio. He attended Purdue University, became a CPA, and after a short career as an auditor, turned to stock investing and portfolio management for over 20 years. He is currently a Senior Vice President, Financial Advisor and Senior Portfolio Manager at Morgan Stanley. Tom and his wife, Nancy, are active members of the Winnetka Covenant Church.

Chicago Symphony Choir Conductor Duain Wolfe will be the distinguished guest and Golden Baton Award Recipient at the event as well. Mr. Wolfe is the Conductor of the Chicago Symphony Chorus, and has worked with the MYA Voices Rising vocal ensemble at the CSO's annual Welcome Yule series. Proceeds from this event will support the organization by helping MYA meet their annual operating budget. The following are but a few of the activities and initiatives undertaken by MYA every year: full Scholarships for twenty-two deserving students who are members of the Young Music Scholars initiative, free concerts with Ballet Chicago at the Cultural Center for over 1,000 Chicago Public Schools students, free concerts for Chicago Public Schools students in partnership with Ravinia's One Score, Reach*Teach*Play Education Programs, free concerts with the Lang Lang Foundation Scholars at Millennium Park and Ravinia, and award-winning instruction for MYA students in jazz, orchestral, chamber, vocal, and music theory areas.

Event Date: March 14, 2015

Venue: Evanston Golf Club, 6:00pm

4401 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois

Tickets: <https://secure.mya.org/forms/benefit.php>

Questions: please contact Karen Dennis at mya@mya.org or call (847) 926-9898

About MYA: Midwest Young Artists is a top rated youth music ensemble programs in the Midwest 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 ensembles, 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 graduates are accepted at the most selective conservatories, universities and colleges in the country. ###