

# Midwest Young Artists



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NEWS RELEASE

Carl Jasieniecki

Marketing & Communications Director

Phone: (847) 926-9898

E-mail: [carl@mya.org](mailto:carl@mya.org)

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878 Lyster Road  
Highwood, IL 60040

## **Midwest Young Artists Announces Trio of Concerts at Northwestern University on February 24 to Feature Winning Soloists from the Walgreens Concerto Competition**

HIGHWOOD, Ill. – Nationally top rated pre-college music conservatory Midwest Young Artists (MYA) is pleased to announce the programs for a trio of concerts at Northwestern University's Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, to take place on February 24. The winners of MYA's annual Walgreens National Concerto Competition will be playing solo pieces with the MYA orchestras. The program also includes symphonic works by major composers such as Mozart, Bach, Sibelius, Haydn, Rachmaninoff and Brahms. This is a unique chance to witness the performances that will shape these young musicians into the leaders of tomorrow.

A 1:00pm downbeat will signal the first concert's commencement. Titled 20 Years of Inspiration in honor MYA's 20<sup>th</sup> year of inspiring students and audiences globally, the first four orchestral ensembles offered at the Highwood-based music school are represented; the Reading, Cadet, Concertino, and Philharmonia orchestras. Alice Zhang, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader from Vernon Hills, Il. will be performing the Mozart Piano Concerto #12 with the Philharmonia orchestra, under the direction of Patrick Pearson. Alice won the MYA Junior Division piano category in the 2012 concerto competition.

The creative tour de force continues at 3pm with 20 Years of Imagination, featuring the MYA Honors Wind Symphony under the Direction of Dr. James Ripley, Voices Rising Choral Ensemble under the direction of Anastasia Black, and Concert Orchestra under the direction of MYA Founder & Director, Dr. Allan Dennis. The MYA Junior Division co-winners who will share the stage at this concert are 5<sup>th</sup> grader Masha Lakisova of Vernon Hills, and 7<sup>th</sup> grader Sofiya Kyrlyuk of Huntley, Illinois. Their winning piece, the Bach Double Violin Concerto, will be accompanied by the 100+ piece Concert orchestra. Also featured will be a rendition of Finlandia by Jean Sibelius, a fan favorite.

The evening will conclude with 20 Years of Greatness at 7:30pm with a program by MYA's award winning top orchestra, the Symphony, conducted by Dr. Allan Dennis. This 120+ piece ensemble is comprised of mainly High School students that travel from 74 communities in the tri-state area to rehearse together every Saturday afternoon, in

addition to membership in their own school ensembles & MYA chamber ensembles. The mighty Brahms 2<sup>nd</sup> Symphony will be a familiar piece for orchestra devotees, and the Symphony has been rehearsing it with gusto.

The MYA Division Senior Strings and Overall MYA Division winner of the Walgreens competition, 9<sup>th</sup> grader Aidan Perreault of Skokie, Il. will perform the Sibelius Violin Concerto. MYA is pleased to also showcase the talents of Open Division Overall Winner Roger Shen, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade pianist from Northbrook, Il., who will be performing the Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto #2 on stage with the Symphony as accompaniment. Don't miss out on this opportunity to support your local young musicians and hear a collection of amazing pieces performed with genuine feeling, live right there in front of you!

Tickets are available online, \$30 for adults and \$15 for students, with all proceeds of course supporting MYA, which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.  
[www.mya.org/store/tickets.php](http://www.mya.org/store/tickets.php)

For more information, please visit **[www.mya.org](http://www.mya.org)** or call (847) 926-9898.

Midwest Young Artists (MYA) is one of the leading youth music ensemble programs in the country and represents some of the brightest young musicians in the world. Also Nationally top rated nonprofit by Great Non-Profits, MYA offers exceptional training in jazz, choral, chamber, wind symphony and orchestral performance. Founded in 1993, MYA currently reaches more than 1,000 students from 74 communities in the Chicago area, with students ranging in age from 12 months old through 12th grade. MYA encompasses 8 youth orchestras, over 65 chamber music ensembles, four choral groups, a comprehensive jazz program, a wind symphony and a multi-level music theory program. Students have the opportunity to travel abroad and perform in major venues throughout the United States and around the world. MYA graduates are accepted at the most prestigious conservatories and colleges in the USA and abroad.

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