



Press Release
Midwest Young Artists
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Evanston High School Graduates Return Home for Midwest Young Artists' Stars of Today Concerts

FORT SHERIDAN, IL, - Somehow you always find your way back home. This is true for two native Evanston musicians. At 7:30 p.m., on Saturday, April 30, at the Pick-Staiger Concert Hall (50 Arts Circle Drive, 847-491-5441) of Northwestern University, violinist **Jeremy Black** and violist **Carrie Dennis** will return to their musical roots to solo with the award-winning Midwest Young Artists (MYA 878 Lyster Rd., Highwood 847-926-9898) Symphony Orchestra. Both soloists are former members of MYA and of Evanston Township High School. The two alums will be reunited for a special performance of Mozart's exciting *Symphony Concertante* and will join the Symphony Orchestra in a performance of Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 5*. Tickets to the 7:30 p.m. concert are \$15 adults and \$10 for students/seniors and can be purchased at www.mya.org.

Featured on the 3:00 p.m. concert line-up is the MYA Reading, Cadet, and Prep Orchestras and the Choristers. The concert also includes a pop extravaganza performed by the MYA Concert Orchestra. Popular selections include the *Lord of the Rings*, *Phantom of the Opera*, and the popular *Best of the Beatles*. Tickets for the 3:00 p.m. concert are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students/seniors and can be purchased at www.mya.org.

MYA's musical foundation provided the seed for both Jeremy and Carrie's successful performance careers. Now Assistant Principal Violist with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Carrie Dennis was one of the first members of MYA. As one of Dr. Dennis's three talented daughters, Carrie grew up in the musical arms of MYA and at the young age of 16 moved to Philadelphia to attend the Curtis Institute of Music where she studied violin with Victor Danchenko. In addition to her position with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Carrie has attended summer music festivals including the Marlboro Festival, Morritzburg Festival, Ida Kavafians' Music from Angel Fire, Tanglewood, and the Verbier Festival and Academy where she won the Juchum Musical Award. She has collaborated with the Artis Quartet, the East Coast Chamber Orchestra, and has toured with Musicians from Marlboro. Carrie plays on a Gigli viola from the mid 1700's.

Jeremy Black has been a member of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's first violin section since 2002. As a founding member of MYA, Jeremy was a violinist with the MYA Symphony Orchestra and the Chamber Ensemble Program. At the young age of 12, Jeremy made his debut as a soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. During his high school years, he studied with violinist Mark Zinger who is currently Professor Emeritus at DePaul University. As an undergraduate, he attended Case Western Reserve on an academic scholarship and pursued music at the Cleveland Institute of Music. While at Case, Jeremy set up MYA's first website.

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After graduating, Jeremy moved to Ann Arbor to earn his Masters in Music degree at the University of Michigan, where he studied with Paul Kantor. Jeremy recently married Naperville native and MYA alum Kate Massagli in 2003. Jeremy plans to return to Chicago this summer as Concertmaster with the Grant Park Orchestra in Chicago. He plays on a Lorenzo and Tommaso Carcassi, dated 1783.

Midwest Young Artists (878 Lyster Road, Highwood, IL, 847-926-9898), is the leading youth-music ensemble program in the Midwest. Founded in 1993 by Dr. Allan Dennis with one orchestra, MYA has grown into a full-curriculum music school with a distinguished faculty of 22. Presently, MYA has five youth orchestras, more than 50 chamber music ensembles, three vocal ensembles, an all-inclusive jazz program, as well as classes in music theory and history. The program is for serious young musicians and dedicated amateurs. MYA is housed in its own state-of-the-art facility in the town of Fort Sheridan, which provides its students with large rehearsal halls, classrooms, a recording studio, and music library. MYA graduates are accepted at the most selective conservatories in the country.

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