

*Press Release*  
*Midwest Young Artists*  
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**Midwest Young Artists Takes Home Silver and Bronze at  
2005 National Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition**

*FORT SHERIDAN, IL*, - Midwest Young Artists (MYA 878 Lyster Road, Highwood, 847-926-9898)

continues to establish itself as one of the top chamber music programs in the country. On Sunday, May 8, the AYM Piano Trio and the BAM String Quartet were awarded the Silver and Bronze Medals respectively from a field of over 60 chamber ensembles at the prestigious **2005 National Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition**. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> medal (including an honorable mention) awarded to MYA in the last twelve years of the competition, a feat no other program in the U.S. can even come close to boasting. In addition, rarely have 2 medals winners been selected from the same program in the same year.

The **AYM Piano Trio**, coached by Dr. Allan Dennis, consists of violinist Shawn Moore (student of Cyrus Forough), a junior at Elgin High School's Humanities Academy; pianist Samuel Cormier-Iijima (student of Emilio del Rosario), a senior at the Illinois Academy of Math & Science; and cellist Christopher Trigg (student of Hans Jensen), a senior at the Illinois Academy of Math & Science. The trio was also recently selected to perform on Public Radio International's *From the Top* radio program with superstar violinist Joshua Bell at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, May 22, at Harper College in New York City.

Bronze winner **BAM Quartet**, led by MYA string chamber music coach Desiree Ruhstrat, consists of violinist Rachel Goldberg (student of Desiree Ruhstrat), a home schooled eighth-grader; violinist Herah Kim (student of Desiree Ruhstrat), a seventh-grader at Wilmette Junior High School; violist Sean Yeh (student of Desiree Ruhstrat), an eighth-grader at Highland Middle School; and cellist Gabriel Cabezas (student of Hans Jensen), a seventh-grader at Wilmette Junior High School. They are the youngest performers to have won a medal at the competition.

Also representing MYA were quarterfinalists MMMM Good Quartet (Maira Bette, New Trier High School; Scot Moore, Elgin High School; Mindy Park, Lake Zurich High School; Madeline Sharp, New Trier High School), the Avante Quartet (Katie Belleville, Glenbrook South High School; Kevin Kunkel, Vernon Hills High School; Samantha O'Connell, Prospect High School; Gerry Wawrzynek, Glenbrook South High School),

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the Wind & Rein Quintet (Lars Heemskerk, Glenbard North High School; Rhiannon Jerch, Lake Forest High School; Mickey Mangan, Maine South High School; Ryan Mercer, Prospect High School; James Rein, Stevenson High School), and the MYAPE Quintet (Hiral Desai, Wheeling High School; David Hutter, St. Charles North High School; Zachary Robertson, Glenbrook North High School; Stefani Weiss, Niles North High School; and Molly Yeh, Glenbrook South High School).

The Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition is the nation's largest. Founded in 1973, the Competition's purpose is to encourage emerging instrumental chamber music ensembles and to provide a forum for their talents. Each year students from the finest American conservatories and music schools participate. Foreign nationals from more than twenty countries representing South America, Asia, Africa, Australia and Europe participate. The competition takes place in several rounds. The first round is a video tape screening conducted by a panel of qualified performers and instructors. The junior quarterfinal, semifinal and final rounds are live auditions in South Bend before a panel of distinguished jurors. The 2005 competition judges included pianist Paul Nitsch, cellist Rhona Rider, violist Melissa Matson, clarinetist Alan Kay, pianist Judith Gordon, violinist Shmuel Ashkenasi, cellist James Dunham, saxophonist Michael Whitcombe, hornist Gregory Hustis, and oboist Richard Killmer.

**Midwest Young Artists** (878 Lyster Road, Highwood, IL, 847-926-9898), is the premiere 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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