



Press Release

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**Midwest Young Artists
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**Featuring Winners from Walgreens 11th National Concerto Competition
Chicago's Premier Youth Music Ensemble Presents: Legends of the Silk Road!
The 3rd Concert in their Destination: Silk Road Season**

FORT SHERIDAN, IL. – At 3:00 & 7:30 PM, on **Saturday, February 24, 2007**, at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall (Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, IL), Midwest Young Artists (MYA) will feature the winners from their 2006-07 Walgreens 11th National Concerto Competition. The 3:00 concert features 12 year old **MYA Junior Division Winner, Christine Murphy, flute, 7th grader at Lincoln Middle School, from Park Ridge, IL**, performing Bizet's *Carmen Fantasy*. The 7:30 concert features MYA **Senior Division Winner, Molly Yeh, marimba, senior at Glenbrook S. High School**, performing *Fantasy on Japanese Woodprints* by A. Hovhaness and **Open Division Winner, Brian Chang, piano, 10th grader at IMSA in Aurora, from Naperville, IL**, performing Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No.3 in C Major*. This year more than 160 young musicians from as far as Texas participated in the competition.

Brian Chang, a sophomore at Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, is a piano student of James Giles at Northwestern University. Brian has won awards in numerous competitions including the Society of American Musicians, Music Teachers National Association, and the Chinese Fine Arts Society. Brian was also finalist in the 2006 Feinberg Chicago Symphony Orchestra Youth Audition. He has performed in many Chicago area venues including the Chicago Cultural Center and the Steinway Young Artist Series. In addition, he has performed live on WFMT. Brian is an avid chamber musician and has represented Midwest Young Artists for the past 2 years in trios at the

Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. Currently, he is a member of a Midwest Young Artists woodwind quintet. Academically, Brian's love for mathematics has led him to represent his schools at several state-level competitions, which has garnered him many top prizes.

An accomplished pianist and flutist, **Christine Murphy** began her music studies on piano at the age of 5. At 7, Christine began studying flute and at the young age of 12, she has already accumulated an impressive collection of accomplishments as a young flutist. In addition to being principal flutist in Midwest Young Artists' Concert Orchestra, she has been principal flute at her elementary and middle school for several years. She won first place in the Chicago Flute Club Junior Division Competition in 2004, first place in the Junior Division of the Society of American Musicians Competition in 2005, first place in the Intermediate Division of the Society of American Musicians Competition in 2006, second place in the 2006 Music Teachers National Association National Junior Woodwinds Competition, and third place in the Senior Division of the 2006 Chicago Flute Club Competition. In 2005, she was selected as soloist for Betty Haag's annual concert at Symphony Center and in both 2005 and 2006 she was selected to perform at Sherwood's annual Flute Festival Honors Recital. Recently, Christine won the Kishwaukee Valley Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition and will be soloing with them on February 25, 2007. Future engagements include soloing with the Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra in June. Her teachers include Ikuko Armani and Hideko Amano.

Molly Yeh's accomplishments as a young musician are extraordinary!! Recently making her Carnegie-Zankel Hall debut in September of 2006, she appeared as soloist with host Christopher O'Riley and as a member of the award-winning "Beat 3" percussion trio, for the newly-produced PBS television series "From the Top" to be aired in April 2007.

Accompanying her father, John Bruce Yeh (Assistant Principal Clarinet, CSO), to Chicago Symphony Orchestra concerts from the age of 2 months, Molly was exposed to classical music from birth. Beginning her musical studies at the age of 3 on violin and piano, 17 year-old Molly has studied percussion for 8 years. She has been a member of the Midwest Young Artists Symphony Orchestra and the MYA Percussion Ensemble for

the past 5 years. As a member of MYA's "Rattan Marimba Trio", Molly was honored with the Gold Medal in the Junior Division of the 2004 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, the first time for the prestigious award to be given to a percussion ensemble. Subsequently, she appeared with the trio on Harry Porterfield's "Someone You Should Know" on ABC-TV, on Rick Kogan's morning program on WGN, and on PRI's "From the Top" with Christopher O'Riley. In May of 2006, Molly again garnered the Gold Medal at the Fischhoff Competition, but this time with the virtuoso percussion trio "Beat 3." Molly is the recipient of the 2006 John P. Paynter Memorial Scholarship from the Northshore Concert Band, where she premiered Michael Burritt's *Duo Concertante* for clarinet, percussion, and wind ensemble on February 19, 2006. This work was co-commissioned by the Glenbrook South Instrumental League and the Northshore Concert Band for Molly and her father, in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Northshore Concert Band. Molly made her critically acclaimed professional debut as a soloist on January 28, 2006, with the South Bend Symphony conducted by Tsung Yeh, performing the *Fantasy on Japanese Woodprints* by Alan Hovhaness.

During the summer of 2006, Molly participated in the Juilliard Percussion Seminar, where she attended master classes given by Joseph Gramley, Daniel Druckman, Joseph Pereira, Gordon Gottlieb, Glenn Velez and others. She also attended the 2006 Tanglewood Percussion Workshop and was declared winner of their mock audition.

Molly currently studies with Vadim Karpinos of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. She has also worked with Michael Burritt, Professor of Percussion at Northwestern University, Ted Atkatz, former Principal Percussionist of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Paul Yancich, Principal Timpanist of the Cleveland Orchestra, Kathy Colsen, Sarah Barnes, Michael Kozakis, Eric Millstein, Matthew Strauss, Barry Grossman, and Paul Wertico.

An honor student at Glenbrook South High School, Molly has been involved in orchestra, marching band, symphonic wind ensemble, math team, student council, and Orchesis dance team. In her free time, Molly enjoys tap dancing and traveling. In 2004, she was presented with the Spirit Stick Award, the highest honor given at Glenbrook South, for outstanding achievement.

Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$12 for students and are available at www.mya.org, at the door, or by calling 847.926.9898.

Midwest Young Artists (878 Lyster Road, Highwood, 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. MYA has five youth orchestras, more than 50 chamber music ensembles, three vocal ensembles, an all-inclusive jazz program, and 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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