

Midwest Young Artists



CONTACT: Susan Cook, 847.926.9898
susancook@mya.org
cell: 262.344.1815

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1st ANNUAL CHICAGO NATIONAL CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION

Sunday, February 17, 2008

Midwest Young Artists (MYA, 878 Lyster Road, Highwood, IL) is pleased to announce the inaugural year of its **Chicago National Chamber Music Competition** to be held on Sunday, February 17, 2008 at the **Skokie Theatre Foundation** (7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, IL).

Over the past 15 years MYA has proven itself as the premiere youth chamber ensemble organization in the United States as evidenced by success in competitions, size of programs, and services offered. "The implementation of a youth chamber music competition, similar to the Walgreens Concerto Competition, is a logical outgrowth of MYA's commitment to creating the finest environments for students in which they can grow," states Allan Dennis, Director of MYA. "We want to continue to support the highest level of performance as well as citizenship among our students and, in addition, we want to encourage other students to experience the nurturing philosophy that has become MYA's trademark. One of the ways this happens is through the interaction between professional chamber musicians and students as well as among the students, themselves, in preparation for an event such as this."

The competition is designed to provide an educational as well as a competitive experience for young chamber ensembles. The competition is open to chamber ensembles in 12th grade and younger and is comprised of two divisions (Open and MYA). The competition is open to all instruments and is divided into the following two categories: Strings & Piano and All Other Instruments (brass, percussion, voice, winds). Applicants must register on-line at www.mya.org by midnight on **January 18, 2008**.

Contestants will be competing for **over \$5,000 in cash prizes and scholarships** and the winner of each division will perform in a Winners Recital at the Chicago Cultural Center on Sunday, April 20, 2008. The competition will be judged by a panel of nationally known chamber musicians and educators. For more information, please contact Midwest Young Artists at 847.926.9898 or visit www.mya.org.

With a vision to create an exceptional environment for young musicians, Midwest Young Artists (878 Lyster Road, Highwood, 847-926-9898) was founded in 1993. Currently reaching over 600 students from 74 cities in the metropolitan Chicago area, with students ranging in age from 2nd through 12th grades, MYA strives to provide the highest quality music experience for young musicians nationwide. MYA expects the best out of its students and provides a supportive and nurturing environment. It is a place where students are able to grow with their peers in a competitive, yet friendly atmosphere. MYA has 5 youth orchestras, more than 60 chamber music ensembles, 3 choral groups, an all-inclusive jazz program, 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. Leading the nation in chamber music instruction, MYA graduates are accepted at the most selective conservatories, universities and colleges in the country.

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