

Press Release
Midwest Young Artists
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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It's "In the Family" for Two Hawthorn Woods Young Musicians

FORT SHERIDAN, IL - There must be a genetic predisposition to having musical talent for the Park Family. Having two children who not only play their musical instruments with proficiency but have a knack for winning competitions is like finding a diamond in the rough - lucky *and* uncommon. But for James and Anna Park of Hawthorn Woods, IL, playing music comes naturally to their two young daughters Laura and Mindy. As winners of the Junior and Senior Levels of the Midwest Young Artists (MYA 878 Lyster Road, Highwood, IL, 847-926-9898) Division of the 2005-2006 Walgreens Concerto Competition, the two girls will perform with the MYA orchestras for *A Night at the Theater* on Saturday, February 18, at the Pick-Staiger Concert Hall (50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, 847-467-4000) at Northwestern University.

You would never guess by her appearance that 12-year-old Laura Park is a knock-out violinist. Only in the 6th grade at Lake Zurich Middle School North, she can already play her violin as well as some professional musicians. Bruce Polay, Conductor of Knox-Galesburg Symphony, commented that her performance at the 2005-2006 Walgreens Concerto Competition was "well beyond her young years."

Her list of awards, for a girl her age, isn't too shabby either. In addition to being the MYA Jr. Division Winner of the Walgreens Concerto Competition, Laura has won awards at the Society of American Musicians, the MFHS Competition of the Chinese Fine Arts Society and the Sejong Cultural Society Competition. Laura currently studies violin with Injoo Choi and participates in the MYA Chamber Music Program and the MYA Prep and Concert Orchestras.

Rising star violinist Laura Park will take the stage in a performance of Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto in e minor* with the MYA Concert Orchestra at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 18, at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall. Sponsored by Seman Violins, the matinee program also features the MYA Choristers, Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Orchestra.

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree for older sister Mindy Park. 16-year-old Mindy, a sophomore at Lake Zurich High School, has established herself as one of the top young cellists in the country. Just old enough to have her driver's license, Mindy has soloed with the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and was the winner of the 2005 Nancy Fuqua Memorial Young Artists Competition.

MORE MORE MORE

A student of Hans Jensen, she has been studying cello since the young age of seven. She currently performs in the MYA Chamber Music Program and the MYA Symphony Orchestra.

Mindy will perform Shostakovich's *Cello Concerto No. 1* with the award-winning MYA Symphony Orchestra at the 7:30 p.m. evening concert on Saturday, February 18, at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall at Northwestern University. Sponsored by the McCormick Tribune Foundation, the concert also features the MYA Chorale and Symphony Orchestra and the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana Concert Choir in a dramatic performance of Carl Orff's electrifying *Carmina Burana*.

Tickets are \$20/adult and \$10/student or senior and are available at www.mya.org 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, two 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 and universities in the country.

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