

**Press Release
Midwest Young Artists
878 Lyster Road
Highwood, IL. 60040**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT: Sarah Barnes, sarahbarnes@mya.org

Wk:(847) 926-9898 ext. 306

Cell: (847) 721-3680

Beyond Their Age; Introducing the 2005-2006 Walgreens Concerto Competition Winners

FORT SHERIDAN, IL – All younger than the precious age of 17, Gabriel Cabezas and sisters Mindy and Laura Park have taken this year's 2005-2006 Walgreens Concerto Competition at Midwest Young Artists (MYA 878 Lyster Road, Highwood, 847-926-9898) by storm. Her brilliant performance of Shostakovich's *Cello Concerto No. 1* awarded 16-year-old Mindy Park the overall winner for the MYA Senior Division. Her sister, 12-year-old Laura Park, took home the top honor for the MYA Junior Division with her performance of Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto in e minor*. 13-year-old cellist Gabriel Cabezas, from Wilmette, IL, won the overall Open Division with his performance of Kabalevsky's *Cello Concerto #2*. The three youngsters will take the stage with the MYA orchestras on Saturday, February 18, at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall at Northwestern University.

You would never guess from 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.

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 Laura's 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. Barely 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.

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.

At the age of 13, cellist Gabriel Cabezas has achieved more than the average teenager. His awe-dropping resume shows the young musician's versatility, talent and determination. Beginning with his first cello lesson at the age of four to his recent win at the 2005-2006 Walgreens Concerto Competition, Gabriel is well on his way to living out his dream of becoming an accomplished cellist.

A student of Hans Jorgen Jensen, Gabriel's orchestral credits include performances with the Youth Orchestras of Greater Fort Worth, the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestras, the Orchestra of the Americas, and the MYA Orchestras. As a member of the MYA Chamber Music Program, Gabriel performs in the BAM Quartet - Bronze Medallists for the Junior Division of the 2005 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition. The BAM Quartet recently performed and recorded for *From the Top*, a national radio program hosted by pianist Christopher O'Riley. Recently, Gabriel was named semi-finalist at the 2006 Sphinx National Competition and his compositions *Scherzo Cacciatore* and *Pulses* for piano were awarded the 2004 and 2005 Illinois Junior Category Titles by the Music Teachers National Association. In December of 2004, Gabriel was the winner of the MYA Junior Division of the Walgreens National Concerto Competition and performed with the MYA Concert Orchestra at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall. Gabriel is a student at Wilmette Junior High School.

Cellists Mindy Park and Gabriel Cabezas will perform with the award-winning MYA Symphony Orchestra for *A Night at the Theater* at 7:30 p.m., on Saturday, February 18, at the Pick-Staiger Concert Hall (50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, 847-467-4000) at Northwestern University. On the program is Shostakovich's show-stopper *Cello Concerto No. 1*, performed by Mindy Park and Kabalevsky's *Cello Concerto No. 2* performed by Gabriel Cabezas. Sponsored by the McCormick Tribune Foundation, the concert also features the MYA Chorale, Choristers 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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