

Date: March 19, 2019

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The winners of the Dr. Robert Stanger Young Artists Audition for 2019, held at Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church in Elmhurst on February 16, have been announced. Conducted by the Elmhurst Symphony Association and sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Elmhurst and the former Auxiliary of the ESO through its Eunice B. Sidener Scholarship, the competition showcased 23 outstanding high school musicians from many of the western suburbs. Special thanks go to this year's judges, Jenny Brown, Patrick Godon, and Krista Halvorson, who spent many hours listening to and critiquing these spectacular young performers, choosing four winners:

First Place: Justin Chang, Piano

Piano Concerto No. 2, Movement 1, by Sergei Rachmaninoff

11th Grade, William Fremd High School, Palatine

Teacher: Sung Hoon Mo

Second Place: Amelia Korbitz, Violin

Violin Concerto No. 1, Movement 1, by Sergei Prokofiev

12th Grade, Downers Grove North High School

Teacher: Thomas Wermuth

Third Place: Nicholas Boettcher, Double Bass

Bass Concerto, Movement 1 & 2, by Serge Koussevitzky

9th Grade, Naperville North High School

Teacher: Andy Anderson

Fourth Place: Claire Arias-Kim, Violin

Concerto in A minor, Op. 53, Movement 1 by Antonin Dvorak

12th Grade, William Fremd High School, Palatine

Teacher: Almita Vamos

Grace Kim, violin, 12th grade, Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville, received an honorable mention for her performance.

Stanger Audition first-place winner Justin Chang will perform with the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra at a subscription concert during its 2019-20 season. Other winners will perform for Kiwanis and other local groups in the next few months.

Thanks go to Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church and staff for the use of the church and their able assistance and to the dedicated Symphony volunteers who made the event possible: Bruce Forbush, Becca Anderson, Sue Coons, Lorraine Freeman, Mary Grether, Linda Kozak, Irmgard Olson, Lou Saville, and Cynthia Krainc, and Key Club members from York High School: Nicole Bednarik, Elise Lamberti, and Lily Martinez.. The Symphony is especially grateful to the Stanger Audition's main sponsor, the Elmhurst Kiwanis Club, for its long-time support and to the Stanger Audition's coordinator, Michael Surratt, for organizing the event. Thanks also go to the Elmhurst Symphony Auxiliary's Eunice B. Sidner Scholarship Fund for sponsoring the fourth-place winner. Next year marks the 50th anniversary of the Stanger Audition. Watch for news about special events celebrating a half century of recognition and support for aspiring young musicians in the western suburbs. For more information, call the Symphony office at [\(630\) 941-0202](tel:630-941-0202) or visit www.elmhurstsymphony.org.



Justin Chang