

# Semifinalists

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## **Jaime An**

**Jaime An**, 19, is a freshman Cello Performance major at Northwestern University, studying with Professor Hans Jensen. She began studying cello under the tutelage of Jihee Kim at age 10 in her hometown of San Francisco. She has won top prizes in the Korea Times Competition, American Fine Arts Festival Concerto Competition, CMTANC, US International Music Competition, and the US International Open Music Competition. In 2017, she was the MTNA CA Senior String winner and also

winner of MTNA Southwest Division Competition in 2018. Jaime studied with Hans Jorgen Jensen at the Meadowmount School of Music in 2014, 2015, and 2017, and also studied with David Requiro and Steven Doane at the Bowdoin Music Festival in 2016. In the summer of 2018, she attended Music@Menlo directed by David Finckel and Wu Han. She is an active chamber musician and has been a part of California Music Preparatory Academy since 2015 and Young Chamber Musicians under Susan Bates since 2016. She has participated in master classes by the Ying Quartet, Telegraph Quartet, Jupiter Quartet, and the Parker String Quartet. Jaime's Narratio Cello Quartet won first place at the KAMSA competition and VOCE SF in 2017. In her free time, she loves to dance and spend time with her family and friends.



## **Julia Angelov**

Violinist **Julia Angelov**, age 18, is a senior at National Cathedral School and a student of Aaron Rosand. She has been a fellow at the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) Youth Fellowship Program at the John F. Kennedy Center since 2013. There, she is mentored by Nurit Bar-Josef, NSO Concertmaster, and is the Milka Violin Scholar of the Markow-Totevy Foundation.

Julia has performed at numerous venues, including the Beethoven Hall of the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, the Vladimir Palace and the Prokofiev Hall of the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, the Millennium Stage and Terrace Theater at the Kennedy Center, and the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC, and has given solo recitals at the Bulgarian Embassy. She has also had the honor of being the featured performer of a private salon concert for Maxim Vengerov and performed at a gala concert honoring the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union at the Ronald Reagan Building.

Julia has appeared as a soloist with the Arlington (VA) Philharmonic, the US Army Orchestra, and the National Philharmonic at the Strathmore (MD) Music Center, and the Kostroma Symphony Orchestra in Russia.

Julia has won competitions, including the Music Teachers National Association's (MTNA) National Strings Competition, and has been awarded the Amadeus Concerts Emerging Artist Scholarship.



## **James Baik**

Cellist **James Baik**, 17, studies with Hans Jørgen Jensen. He is a senior at New Trier High School in Winnetka, Illinois. James began playing the piano at age six, and cello at age eight in Houston, TX. His debut solo appearance took place in 2015 when he performed with the Houston Civic Symphony Orchestra and the Clear Lake Symphony as a winner of their concerto competitions. That same year, James was featured on the cover of the October issue of *Southwestern Musician*, as

a result of soloing at Lila Crockett Theater during the Texas Music Educators Association conference. James was selected as a Houston Young Artist, participating in many community concerts in the area. In 2017, he was a finalist at the Lynn Harrell Concerto Competition. He was also a winner of the 2018 DePaul Concerto Competition and has performed with the Oistrakh Symphony of Chicago. He was a finalist at the Johansen International Competition in Washington D.C. Most recently, he was named a YoungArts finalist and participated at YoungArts Week in Miami, Florida in January 2019. He was awarded the grand prize at the Walgreens National Competition this past December, resulting in a performance at Pick Staiger Hall at Northwestern University. Summer studies have included the Meadowmount School of Music in 2017 and the Aspen School of Music in 2018, where he was part of the Finckel-Wu Han Chamber Music Program.

During his free time, James loves to eat great food, sleep, and spend time with family.



## **Jack Boettcher**

Cellist **Jack Boettcher**, 17, studies with Hans Jørgen Jensen. Last fall, Jack was named a National YoungArts Foundation Winner. Jack has performed as a soloist with the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra's Symphony Orchestra, as well as with a number of Chicago-area orchestras. Last year, he won first-place at the MTNA Competition for Illinois and the East Central Division, then placed third nationally. He also won the Paul Vermeil Young Artist Award, the West Suburban Symphony

Solo Competition, the DePaul Concerto Festival for Young Performers, the CYSO Concerto Competitions, and the Glen Ellyn Wheaton Music Club Scholarship. He was a repeat first-place winner at the Music Festival in Honor of Confucius and was Grand Prize winner at the American Fine Arts Festival. Jack was featured on NPR's *From the Top*, WFMT's *Introductions*, WGN Radio's *After Hours*, and the Young Steinway Concert Series. He has attended the Orford Music Festival, where he was a semifinalist for the Orford Music Award) and Bowdoin International Music Festival. An avid composer, he was selected by the Chicago Bulls Talent Search to perform "LeBron James Bites the Dust", his own arrangement of Queen's classic hit at a Bulls half-time show. Jack's compositions have been recorded by Third Coast Percussion, Gaudete Brass, the Kontras Quartet, and the CYSO Concert Orchestra. Jack is also a member of the cello ensemble *Cellissimo*.

A senior at Naperville North High School, Jack has developed a computer program to help string performers find the most optimal fingerings for their repertoire. He is also designing and building a specialty cello that contracts to make airplane travel easier for cellists.



## **Ari Boutris**

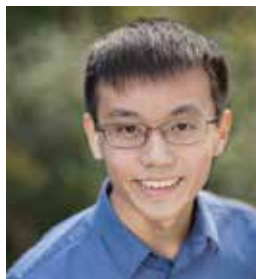
Eighteen-year-old New York violinist **Ari Boutris** has been a scholarship student of Patinka Kopec at the Manhattan School of Music Pre-College, and Pinchas Zukerman at the NAC Young Artists Program. He has performed as soloist with the Pleven Philharmonic Orchestra (Bulgaria), Moskovia String Orchestra, Czech Virtuosi Orchestra, Adelphi Chamber Orchestra (NJ), Camellia Symphony Orchestra (CA), New York Festival Orchestra, New York Concerti Sinfonietta, all MSM Pre-College Orchestras, and many others. He has been featured on WQXR Young Artists Showcase, Israel Radio, and Deutschlandradio. Ari has collaborated with members of the Hermes Quartet, Trio con Brio Copenhagen, and pianists Rohan De Silva, Adam Golka, and Reiko Uchida.

Ari has won first prizes in the Adelphi Orchestra competition, Stamford Young Artists Philharmonic competition, Lyra Music Competition, MSM Pre-College Concerto and Chamber Music competitions. He was an Omega Ensemble (NY) Next Generation Artist for two seasons. He has participated in Master Classes by Mihaela Martin, Ivry Gitlis, Leonidas Kavakos, Viktoria Mullova, Glenn Dicterow, David Kim, and Ani Kavafian. Additional studies have been with Koichiro Harada and Ryoko Shimizu in Tokyo. Ari has attended the Ashkenasi/Kirshbaum Chamber Music Seminar at Heifetz International Music Institute, NAC Young Artists Program, Keshet Eilon International String Master Course, Krzyżowa-Music Festival, Pärnu Music Festival, and Ishikawa Music Academy. Upcoming concerts in 2019–20 include performances with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra and solo recitals in Nagoya and Tokyo, Japan.



## **Nathan Le**

Cellist **Nathan Le**, a native of Los Angeles, California, is a 19-year-old college sophomore in the New England Conservatory/Harvard dual-degree program studying with Laurence Lesser and also studying with Ruslan Biryukov. Previously, he studied with Ronald Leonard at the Colburn Music Academy. Nathan made his solo debut at age 11, performing Haydn's Cello Concerto No. 1 with the Russian State Symphony Orchestra in St. Petersburg, Russia. Three years later, in 2014, he won 3rd Prize at the International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians. In 2015, he was invited by the First Lady of Armenia to participate in the International New Names of Armenia Festival, where he performed with the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra. He was also the recipient of the 2017 ASCAP Leiber and Stoller Music Scholarship, a finalist in the 2018 Stulberg International String Competition, and was awarded the Young Virtuoso Award in the 2nd Berliner International Music Competition. As a soloist, he has performed the cello concerti of Dvorak, Haydn, Elgar, and Tchaikovsky with many orchestras in his hometown of Los Angeles, as well as internationally in Russia, Austria, and Armenia. Nathan has attended the Center Stage Strings, Meadowmount, and Perlman Music Program summer festivals. He has also performed in master classes with renowned musicians such as David Geringas, Gary Hoffmann, Ralph Kirshbaum, and Robert deMaïne.



## **Stephen Leou**

Cellist **Stephen Leou**, 17, is a high school junior from Bellevue, Washington. Stephen has been studying with Leslie Marckx for the past nine years and works with pianist Li-Tan Hsu. He began his cello studies with Mary Walters. Stephen was a semifinalist in the 2018 Johansen International Competition, finalist of the 2019 Music Teacher National Association National Strings Competition, winner of the 2016 Seattle Young Artist Music Festival Concerto Competition, and recipient of the 2018

Monica Meyers Clowes Memorial Award sponsored by the Seattle Chamber Music Society. Stephen made his solo debut with the Cascade Symphony at age 11 as their "Rising Star" Concerto Competition winner. Since then, he has gone on to perform with numerous orchestras including the Seattle Symphony, Eastside Symphony, and Philharmonia Northwest. He has also been featured in live performances on Seattle's classical radio station KING FM 98.1. Stephen's summers have included attending the 2017 ENCORE Chamber Music at Cleveland Institute of Music and performing chamber music with his violinist sister at Seattle parks. His upcoming concert schedule includes performing with the Everett Philharmonic Orchestra in May and the Seattle Symphony in December.



## **Sory Park**

Violinist **Sory Park**, age 19, was born in Gwangju, South Korea in 2000, and began to play the violin at the age of five under the influence of her aunt, who was also a violinist. She won the first prizes in various competitions, including Ewha & Kyunghyang Concours, Hankook Times Youth Concours, Strad Competition of Korea, and the Nanpa National Music Competition. She also received several prizes in the Ilona Fehér International Violin Competition in Hungary, Korea

Herald Music Competition, and Segye Times Music Competition. Sory has performed in masterclasses given by Aaron Rosand, Sheryl Staples, Amy Schwartz Moretti, Bella Hristova, Mimi Zweig, Ju-young Baek, and Eui-myung Kim. She has participated in several music festivals including Yellow Barn, Music@Menlo, and Summit Music festival. Moreover, she has performed recitals through the Kumho Junior Concert Series and the Ujung Prodigy Concert Series, and has appeared as a soloist with the Incheon Philharmonic Orchestra. She has also performed in chamber music concerts sponsored by the Taekwang Group, and the Yewon School Alumni Association.

Previously, she attended the Yewon Arts School, where she graduated with honors and received the "Jung-gu Council Chairperson Prize". She subsequently entered the Seoul Arts High School with honors. She is currently pursuing the bachelor of music degree at the New England Conservatory, where she studies with Soovin Kim.



## **Daniel Rafimayeri**

**Daniel Rafimayeri**, age 18, is an American violinist born in New York City to a Jewish family of Iranian and Dutch heritage. He is currently a first-year student at the New England Conservatory in Boston, studying with Paul Biss. He graduated in June 2018 from Hunter College High School in New York City and Manhattan School of Music Pre-college Division, where he studied with Patinka Kopec. Daniel has performed as a soloist with ensembles including the York

Symphony Orchestra (PA), the Manhattan School of Music Philharmonic Orchestra, and the New York Youth Symphony. He has appeared as a soloist and performed in chamber ensembles at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Weill Recital Hall, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, United Palace Theatre and Appell Center for the Performing Arts in York, PA. A passionate chamber musician, Daniel attended the Wu Han/David Finckel chamber program at the Aspen Music Festival, the Heifetz Music Institute in Virginia, and Greenwood Chamber Music Camp in Massachusetts. He has also worked with Chloé Kiffer, Patricia Davis, Shmuel Ashkenasi, and the late Ecaterina Gerson.



## **Sara Scanlon**

**Sara Scanlon**, age 18, developed her love of music and passion for playing cello at age four. At age sixteen, she performed a concerto with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra and gave a solo performance at the Orford (QC) Musique's - Gala du Prix as a finalist for the Orford Music Award. Sara has been a featured soloist on NPR's From the Top and WQXR's Young Artists Showcase. A native of Milford, Connecticut, Sara was the winner for the Chappaqua Orchestra, Greater New Haven

Concert Orchestra, and the Hamden Symphony Orchestra's Concerto Competitions. She recently had the opportunity to meet Philip Glass and performed his piece for solo cello for him. In addition to her solo work, Sara is a sought-after chamber musician. She was given a fellowship to perform in the Finckel-Wu Han Chamber Music Program as part of the 2017 Aspen Music Festival. As a college freshman, she was chosen to tour with the McDuffie Center for Strings faculty for the 2018 Fabian Concert Series. This summer, Sara has been invited to perform chamber music with David Kim at his Orchestral Institute, and she will be participating in the Kneisel Hall music festival in Maine. Sara is a graduate of the Juilliard pre-college program and is a freshman at the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings at Mercer University, where she studies with Richard Aaron and Julie Albers.



## **Hannah White**

Violinist **Hannah White**, age 19, has soloed extensively throughout the United States and Europe. Hannah has been described by The New York Times as, “terrific... expressive... enthusiastic”; and by Cleveland.com as “clinched... razor-sharp... bright”.

Hannah began her solo career at age nine with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, and since then has performed with the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, New World Symphony Orchestra, Albany Symphony Orchestra, South Bend Symphony Orchestra, Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Sphinx Symphony Orchestra, and Madison Symphony Orchestra. She has performed at numerous prestigious venues, including Carnegie Hall, Severance Hall, Kennedy Center, Cambridge England, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Ordway Center, Harris Theater, New World Center, Disneyland, National Gallery of Art Museum, and World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Hannah has earned top prizes at many competitions, including first place at the Bolz Young Artists/Final Forte Competition, first place at the Medallion International Artist Competition, first place at the ENKOR International Chamber Competition, Silver Medal at the Fischhoff Chamber Competition, first place at MPrize International Chamber Competition, first place at St. Paul String Quartet Competition, two first place awards at the Sphinx Competition, first place at the MTNA National Competition, first place at the Jules M. Laser Chamber Competition, first place at the Midwest Young Artists National Competition, first place at the Sejong Competitions, first place at the Chinese Competition, and winner at the DePaul Competition.

Having studied with Danielle Belen, Hannah now studies with Robert Lipsett at the Colburn Conservatory of Music.



## **Chelsea Xia**

Chelsea Xia, age 17, is a junior at Hunter College High School in New York City. She has been playing violin for eight years and studies with Elizabeth Faidley at the Manhattan School of Music. Recently, Chelsea has received honorable mention and merit awards from the National YoungArts Foundation, and has twice placed as alternate at the MTNA Eastern Division Competition. Notable performances with orchestra include the Sibelius Violin Concerto with the Bergen Philharmonic, Vieuxtemps' Violin Concerto No. 5 with the New York International Chamber Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor as a guest artist for the Riverside (NYC) Symphony, and Vivaldi's "Summer" Concerto with the Washington Heights Chamber Orchestra. As the winner of the 2016–17 MSM Symphony Concerto Competition, she played the Vieuxtemps Concerto with the MSM Pre-college Symphony Orchestra. As a soloist and chamber musician, Chelsea has performed at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center venues numerous times. She has appeared in master classes with Augustin Hadelich, Sarah Chang, Ray Chen, Lisa Batiashvili, and the Shanghai Quartet, among others. For two summers, Chelsea has attended the Meadowmount School of Music. In her free time, she also enjoys

fencing, writing, and conducting scientific research.