

For Immediate Release

Stulberg Competition Congratulates 2016 Semifinalist Performers

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KALAMAZOO, MI – The Stulberg International String Competition has selected the 12 young artists as semifinalists for its 2016 competition, the 41st annual event set for May 21 on the campus of Western Michigan University.

This year's competitors include both local and international flavor, with performers from Michigan, Canada and Germany. Many of the musicians are violinists, though the competition will also feature a cellist and a violist.

The 2016 semifinalists are:

Austin Berman, 19, of Berwyn, PA (violin)
Zachary Brandon, 17, of Battle Creek, MI (violin)
Daniel Hass, 18, of Tel Aviv, Israel (cello)
Zeyu Victor Li, 19, of Philadelphia, PA (violin)
Nathan Meltzer, 15, of New York, NY (violin)
Aubree Oliverson, 17, of Orem, UT (violin)
Kiarra Saito-Beckman, 17, of Bend, OR (violin)
Tristan Siegel, 19, of Bloomington, IN (violin)
Grace Sohn, 16, of Coquitlam, BC, Canada (cello)
Yu Chao Weng, 19, of Ann Arbor, MI (violin)
Brenden Zak, 18, of Ocean, NJ (violin)
Silas Zschocke, 19, of Berlin, Germany (viola)

The judges for the 2016 competition are Glenn Dicterow (violin), Steven Tenenbom (viola) and Peter Wiley (cello). Dicterow is on the faculty of the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, and was concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic for 34 years. A faculty member at the Curtis Institute of Music, Tenenbom is the violist with the Orion String Quartet and piano quartet Opus One, and has performed with jazz and classical artists. Wiley also performs with Opus One, and teaches at the Curtis Institute of Music, University of Maryland and Bard College Conservatory of Music.

The 12 semifinalists were selected from a pool of 166 applicants, a new record number of entrants for the Stulberg International String Competition.

This year's contest will be Saturday, May 21, at the Dalton Center Recital Hall at WMU. Semifinal performances will be each half hour from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. They are free to attend.

The same evening, at 7:30 p.m., the field will be narrowed to six performers, who will compete in the finals. From there, a top three will be named. Tickets for the finals performances are \$20 for adults or \$5 for students. They will be available April 1 at www.stulberg.org.

The next day, Stulberg competition judges will lead master classes, sharing their expertise with local music students. Master classes start at 12:30 p.m., also at WMU's Dalton Center. All classes are free and open to the public.

More than 2,500 young string musicians between the ages of 11 and 19 have participated in the Stulberg International String Competition, which marked its 40th anniversary in 2015. The Stulberg has attracted world-renowned musicians to Kalamazoo to serve as judges and instructors in master classes exclusively for the competitors.

For more information, contact the Stulberg International String Competition at (269) 343-2776, stulbergcomp@yahoo.com, or www.stulberg.org.