

## 46th Stulberg International String Competition becomes a weeklong event!

We are delighted to present the 46th Stulberg International String Competition, featuring 12 outstanding semifinalists selected from a record-breaking 226 applicants. As always, we were thrilled and humbled by the high level of skill and artistry demonstrated by all the young musicians who applied to the Stulberg. Especially in this challenging time, to be able to support these artists and share their music-making with you is a privilege and an honor.

In this unprecedented year, the Stulberg provided funds to our semifinalists to produce high-quality recordings for the judges' review, and for our online broadcast of the competition. We would like to introduce you to our fantastic 2021 judges, who in addition to selecting our winners will lead master classes for local young musicians on competition weekend. You can find their extended bios and information about the master classes on our website.

As it became clear that we would once again have to conduct the competition virtually, the Stulberg took the opportunity to explore new and better ways to showcase these excellent musicians' work. Featuring an expanded format that will allow you to enjoy the competition more than ever! For the first time, the semifinals round will be spread over a week, with performances Monday through Thursday, ending with a special Bach concert on Friday night. The finals round will air Saturday morning, and the competition will conclude with a medalists' spotlight concert on Saturday night. All events are "Name Your Own Price" and hosted on Anywhere Seat. Performances will be available to view on our YouTube Channel after airing. See more details below and visit our website for tickets and more information. We look forward to sharing this marvelous week of music with you all!



### Cynthia Phelps, viola

Violist Cynthia Phelps's versatile career includes appearances as chamber musician, soloist, and as principal violist of the New York Philharmonic. She has performed on major stages across the globe with the New York Philharmonic, performing an extensive repertoire including commissioned concertos by Sofia Gubaidulina and Julia Adolphe. She has collaborated internationally with such artists as Itzhak Perlman, Emanuel Ax, Pinchas Zukerman, Gil Shaham, Yo-Yo Ma, Lynn Harrell, and Yefim Bronfman. A sought-after chamber musician, she performs with the Boston Chamber Music Society, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and the 92nd Street Y. She is a frequent guest at the Marlboro, SummerFest La Jolla, Bridgehampton, Vail, Mostly Mozart, Santa Fe, Cremona, and Schleswig-Holstein Festivals and is a founding member of Les Amies, a flute-harp-violin trio. Ms. Phelps is a recipient of the Pro Musicis International Award, and her most recent recording, *Air*, was nominated for a Grammy Award.



### Mitchell Newman, violin

Mitchell Newman participates regularly in the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Chamber Music and Green Umbrella Series. He performed on Grammy-winning Southwest Chamber Music's recording of the 1st and 3rd string quartets of Carlos Chavez and has recorded the music of Eric Zeisl and "Stories from My Life" by Los Angeles composer Russell Steinberg. In recognition of his chamber music concerts which raise funds for Mental Health America Long Beach he was named a Mental Health Hero by the California State Senate in 2010. Currently, Mr. Newman teaches and conducts the Los Angeles Children's Chamber Orchestra in South Pasadena at the Pascale Music Institute. Each year, he produces a concert featuring YOLA students and Philharmonic members playing together. He also volunteers for People Assisting the Homeless and Street Symphony, scheduling small ensemble concerts at apartment buildings run by PATH. He has encouraged musical talent in the PATH community and performed music by its residents.



### Sara Sant'Ambrogio, cello

Ms. Sant'Ambrogio has appeared as soloist with orchestras including the Atlanta, Beijing Philharmonic, Boston, Budapest, Chicago, Dallas, Moscow State Philharmonic, Prague Chamber Orchestra, Osaka Century Orchestra (Japan), Royal Philharmonic, St. Louis, San Francisco, Seattle and Vienna Symphony; she has performed on six continents at the world's major music centers and festivals including Aspen, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Hollywood Bowl, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Konzert Huset in Stockholm, Marlboro, Muiskverein in Vienna, Ravinia, Orchard and Suntory Halls in Tokyo and Great Mountain Festival in Korea. Ms. Sant'Ambrogio has won numerous international competitions, including The Whitaker, The Dealey, Artists International, Palm Beach Awards and the Naumburg Award with her ensemble the Eroica Trio. Ms. Sant'Ambrogio won a Grammy Award for her performance of Bernstein's *Arias and Barcarolles* and an NPR Best Debut Recording with Eroica for their Debut recording. Ms. Sant'Ambrogio is the subject of a feature length documentary.

# Semifinals Evening Series: 7-8pm, Monday, May 17th-Thursday, May 20th

Register for tickets (Name Your Own Price) at [www.stulberg.org](http://www.stulberg.org)

Spend the week with the Stulberg! This year, we bring you our semifinals round in four installments. Each evening, we will feature three of our semifinalists and air their first-round performances. Tune in and take advantage of this expanded format to get to know these stellar artists and their exquisite playing. And if you can't make them all, no problem -- the performances will be available to stream after airing on our YouTube channel.

## Monday, May 17th:

### Serin Park (violin), 17, Fort Lee, NJ

Prokofiev - Concerto No. 2 in g minor, Op. 63,  
I. 1st movement

Serin, from New York City, is in her seventh year at the Juilliard Pre-College Division, where she studies with Catherine Cho.



### Yireh Choi (cello), 15, Norwood, NJ

Tchaikovsky - Variations on a Rococo Theme, Op. 33, Theme  
Variations 1, 2, 3, 7

Yireh started playing cello at age 8 and was accepted at the Juilliard Pre-College Division at age 12, where she studies with Clara Minhye Kim.



### Nayoun Blaire Kim (violin), 17, Cresskill, NJ

Wieniawski - Violin Concerto No. 1 in F# minor,  
II. III. 2nd and 3rd movement

Nayoun was born in South Korea and began violin at 4, and was admitted to the Juilliard Pre-College Division at age 12, where she studies with Li Lin.



## Tuesday, May 18th:

### Grace Huh (violin), 18, San Jose, CA

Sibelius - Violin Concerto in D minor, Op.47  
I. Allegro moderato

Grace made her solo debut at age 12 with the Palo Alto Philharmonic Orchestra, and currently studies with Ian Swensen at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre-College Division.



### Christy Choi (cello), 18, Tenafly, NJ

Shostakovich - Cello Concerto No.1 in E flat Major, Op.107  
III. Cadenza - Attacca IV. Allegro con moto  
Christy was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and began her cello studies at the age of 6. She currently studies at the Juilliard Pre-College Division with Clara Minhye Kim.



### Eena Yoon (cello), 17, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada

Haydn - Cello Concerto in D Major

I. Allegro moderato  
Eena began her musical studies at age 3 on piano before discovering the cello, which she currently studies with David Hetherington and Andres Diaz.



## Wednesday, May 19th:

### Sean Yu (cello), 16, Rye, NY

Prokofiev - Sinfonia Concertante in E minor, Op. 125  
I. Andante

Sean was accepted into the Juilliard Pre-College Division at the age of 9, where he still studies with Clara Minhye Kim. You may remember him from last year's Stulberg Competition!



### Keila Wakao (violin), 15, Chestnut Hill, MA

Wieniawski - Violin Concerto No.2, Op.22 in D minor  
I. Allegro moderato

Keila began violin at the age of 3 and currently studies with Soovin Kim and Donald Weilerstein of the New England Conservatory of Music.



### Lauren Yoon (violin), 12, Wynnwood, PA

Lalo - Symphonie Espagnole Op.21  
I. Allegro non troppo

Lauren currently studies with Masao Kawasaki at the Juilliard Pre-College Division, having made her orchestral debut at age 8 at Carnegie Hall.



## Thursday, May 20th:

### Evan Tsai (double bass), 18, Baton Rouge, LA

Bottesini - Grande Allegro alla Mendelssohn in E minor  
Originally from Taipei, Taiwan, Evan began cello and bass with his mother, bassist Yung Chiao-Wei, and now also studies bass with Lawrence Wolf and cello with Jan Müller-Szeraws. You may remember him from last year's Stulberg Competition!



### Bobby Boogyeom Park (violin), 15, Bayside, NY

Prokofiev - Violin Concerto No. 2 in G minor  
I. Allegro Moderato in G minor

From Seoul, South Korea, Bobby moved to the United States in 2017 to study violin with Catherine Cho and Donald Weilerstein.



### Chelsie Lim (cello), 16, Cresskill, NJ

Dvořák - Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104  
I. Allegro

Chelsie, born in Australia, moved to the United States at age 3 and began learning cello from her mother at age 8, before being admitted to the Juilliard Pre-College Division at age 10, where she now studies with Clara Minhye Kim.





## Semifinals Evening Series:

7-8pm, Monday, May

17th-Thursday, May 20th

Continued

## Bach Prize Night:

7pm, Friday May 21st

Register for tickets (Name Your Own Price) at [www.stulberg.org](http://www.stulberg.org)

This ticketed event will feature all 12 semifinalists' performances of a movement of unaccompanied Bach, culminating with the announcement of the 2021 Bach Prize winner. We are thrilled to honor our longstanding partnership with Kalamazoo's Bach Festival – and delight Bach lovers everywhere – with this special concert.

## Finals Round:

10am-12pm, Saturday

May 22nd

Register for tickets (Name Your Own Price) at [www.stulberg.org](http://www.stulberg.org)

Program TBD . . .

Tune in to see our 6 finalists announced, then watch them perform the remaining movement/s from their concertos.

## Medalists Showcase:

7pm, Saturday May 22nd

Register for tickets (Name Your Own Price) at [www.stulberg.org](http://www.stulberg.org)

Program TBD . . .

The moment you'll be waiting for: the announcement of the 46th Stulberg International String Competition medalists! For the first time ever, we are featuring our three medalists in a special concert, where you can hear the judges' selections of the bronze and silver medalists' best performances and the gold medalist's full concerto. We are delighted to cap off the competition with what will certainly be a magnificent evening of music.



## Masha Lakisova - From Illinois to International

Do-re-mi-fa-so-la-ti-do, was how Masha Lakisova began her musical career at age 4 in her hometown of Vernon Hills, Ill. Since her first introduction to the scales as a young pianist to international violinist, Masha Lakisova has taken the classical world by the strings! The 18 year-old award-winning violinist already has performed with more than 20 orchestras around the world. Stulberg is proud to have added yet another award to this young artists' resume in what promises to be a fruitful career.

Masha, a native of Vernon Hills, Ill., was the Bronze Medalist of the Stulberg 2020 competition. Her performance of Johann Sebastian Bach's "Grave," a Sonata No. 2 A Minor wowed the international virtual audience. Not only was her execution of the works outstanding, but the 18-year-old Juilliard student performed her works on a violin by Giovanni Francesco Pressenda (Turin 1845), which is on loan from the Stradivari Society of Chicago.

In between having fun with friends, traveling, singing, and art, her musical talent has propelled her into the classical world stratosphere. Some of Masha's prestigious accomplishments include winner of the Arkady Fomin Scholarship, First Prize at the 2018 Tibor Junior International Violin Competition, 2017 National Young Arts Winner, Walgreens National Concerto Competition, the DePaul Concerto Festival, and Gold Medalists at the Fischhoff International Chamber Music Competition (2016, 2017).

Her dedication as a student at Midwest Young Artists Conservatory (2011-2017) led to the roles of concertmaster in three orchestras and first violin in four chamber ensembles. She credits her success to her first lessons with Larisa Zhnizhin to her current instruction under Drew Lecher and Grigory Kalinovsky. She has participated in masterclasses with virtuosi Ana Chumachenko, Sophie Mutter, Mark Kosower, the Ariel Quartet, and many others.

Masha has already performed on the stage of Carnegie Hall. She made history as the youngest finalist of the 7th International Louis Spohr Competition for Young Violinists (2013). As she continues to perfect her craft and deliver impressive winning performances, Stulberg is honored to add Masha to the list of successful string performers who will continue to take on the world of music in years to come.

Masha will perform with the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony in May 2021. The air date is to be announced.



## Yeyeong Jin: Never Too Young

The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia admits its students solely on artistic promise. So, when 9-year-old Yeyeong Jin was accepted as a violin student, not only did she show promise, she made history. Yeyeong was the school's youngest student admitted in their nearly 100-year history. The Stulberg celebrates our 2020 Silver Medalist who continues to impress the world with her talent.

Yeyeong, now 16, placed in the Stulberg International String Competition in 2020. Her graceful, yet, powerful performance of Johann Sebastian Bach's Lyrical Gavotte en rondeau, Parita No. 3 kept the virtual audience holding their breath. The native of South Korea now calls Philadelphia her home as she studies at Curtis with the renowned pedagogue, Ida Kavafian.

Her musical career has been a roller coaster ride of success that began with her winning competitions at age 5. While many 10 year olds worked to familiarize themselves with math facts, Yeyeong spent hours counting time to complex music scales. As other students learned geography, Yeyeong hoppedscotched around the world to perform with orchestras and musicians who were more than three times her age.

In addition to her international win with Stulberg, the student of the Perlman Music Program has won solo performances with several orchestras. The young prodigy also has won the Kumho-Asiana Cultural Foundation Award, which resulted in the loan of a fine ½ size violin made in 1700, the Carlo Giuseppe Testore.

In 2013, shortly after arriving in Philadelphia to attend Curtis, she has appeared in concert numerous times in Field Hall at Curtis as well as at Carnegie Hall. As this young violinist continues to perfect her craft and wow audiences around the globe, the Stulberg will continue to celebrate her as one of our many students who exemplify what this competition is all about...celebrating phenomenal young musicians!

Yeyeong performed with the Western Michigan University Symphony Orchestra in March 2021. The performance was aired on WMU's School of Music Youtube Channel on April 15.

## Bravo! is Back!

Over the past few years, Stulberg has been delighted to present Bravo!, an annual showcase of the best musical talent of local students up to grade 12. Organizing and hosting this free community recital gives the Stulberg a rewarding opportunity to highlight Kalamazoo's young musicians, in partnership with a diverse consortium of local arts organizations, including the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, Black Arts and Cultural Center, Crescendo Academy of Music, Fontana Chamber Arts, Gilmore Keyboard Festival, Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, Public Media Network, and WMUK.

In March 2020, Bravo!'s panel of judges had selected that year's eight outstanding young musicians. But as the recital was scheduled to take place just weeks into the pandemic lockdown, it was cancelled, and these excellent performers never got the opportunity to share their talents with our community. This never quite sat right with the Stulberg, so we resolved to feature the 2020 winners this year rather than run a new competition. Our 2020 winners thus all had the opportunity to record new pieces for a virtual recital, broadcast as part of Kalamazoo's monthly Art Hop showcase this April. If you didn't catch the concert, you can still find it on our YouTube channel, and join us in celebrating these fantastic young people from the Kalamazoo area: Christopher Staufer (cello), Cassandra Snowball (piano), Arianna Potluri (voice), Sarah Reed (flute), Garrick Hohm (upright bass), Miles Lekan (tenor saxophone), Ashley Woytal (voice), and Alekzander Waller (piano).

Congratulations to all our winners, their teachers, and their families! Your hard work and artistry enrich our community and make the Stulberg's mission to promote excellence in instrument performance easy to fulfill. And future Bravo! contestants out there, stay tuned for news about our 2022 competition!



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