

## New Virtual Concert Series This November! Saturdays with the Stulberg



**Saturday, November 7 | 10:30 AM**  
Oliver Herbert – cello, 2015 Silver Medalist



**Saturday, November 14 | 10:30 AM**  
Haesue Lee – viola, 2015 Bronze Medalist



**Saturday, November 21 | 10:30 AM**  
Charlotte Marckx, 2018 Gold Medalist

In conjunction with our fall annual appeal, we are thrilled to announce our first-ever virtual concert series, Saturdays with the Stulberg. The series will feature recitals by three of our most captivating recent Stulberg medalists: cellist Oliver Herbert, violist Haesue Lee, and violinist Charlotte Marckx, all of whom have wowed audiences from our physical stages here in Kalamazoo over the past five years and readily accepted the opportunity to play for us again -- this time in the comfort of our own living rooms. All three artists have commented on the unique creative space quarantine has provided for them to explore repertoire at a different pace, and we can't wait to hear the fruits of their practice.



The recitals will be broadcast on Saturdays November 7, 14, and 21 via our website (www.stulberg.org). Each performer will offer a 45-60 minute program to be announced from their home stages. Recitals will be free, and we anticipate as vibrant and international an audience of music lovers as attended our virtual competition this past May.

While we missed connecting with the Stulberg's generous supporters at our usual Summer and Stars Celebration in this highly unusual year, we relish this novel opportunity to share music and fellowship virtually. We are deeply grateful to the Stulberg community for your continued support of this organization, and of our stellar young musicians, in this uniquely challenging time. We hope you will join us in celebrating their artistry from afar this November!

More in the next page!

## 45<sup>th</sup> STULBERG INTERNATIONAL STRING COMPETITION

**STREAM IT ONLINE**  
May 16th starting at 12:00 noon

45th Stulberg International String Competition... During a pandemic

In March, the Stulberg was busy preparing for our 45th Stulberg International String Competition. Master Classes were being planned, semi-finalists were selected, hotels were reserved, and the excitement was building. Then the world came to a sudden halt. With the quickly spreading COVID-19 virus, it became apparent that the competition would not go on as planned.

After much evaluation and many conversations, the Stulberg Board of Directors and the Executive Director made the decision to move to a digital format. This had never been done before and required a lot of fast thinking, flexibility, and willingness to embrace the unknown.

This year's judges, Cho-Liang Lin (violin), Clive Greensmith (cello), and Yura Lee (violin/viola) welcomed the opportunity to move forward with the competition. As judge Cho-Liang Lin put it, "I

am very glad this competition can go forward when the world has come to a stop. Anything to inspire musicians to keep going is worth doing." Working together via Zoom, the judges were able to select the finalists, Bach Prize Winner and Gold, Silver, and Bronze medalists.

Semifinalists were asked to submit a solo Bach piece, which, in addition to their submitted audition video, was used to determine the finalists and medalists.

This year's competition saw a record number of online viewers from around the globe -- over 6,000 people viewed the competition from 23 different countries! This was a 43% increase in online viewership over the previous year.

The 2020 Competition is still available to view on the Stulberg Youtube Channel.

**The 2020 Stulberg International String Competition medalists receive both a cash prize and performance and outreach opportunities with our partner organizations. This year's medalists are:**

### GOLD

Dongyoung Jake Shim (violin)

### SILVER

Yeyeong Jin (violin)

### BRONZE

Masha Lakisova (violin)

### BACH PRIZE

Dongyoung Jake Shim (violin)

### This year's semifinalists and finalists were:

Daniel Bae (violin) FINALIST

Luka Coetzee (cello)

Gabrielle Despres (violin)

Albert Gang (violin) FINALIST

Miray Ito (violin)

Yeyeong Jin (violin)

Isaiah Kim (cello) FINALIST

Masha Lakisova (violin)

Laura Navasardian (cello)

Dongyoung Jake Shim (violin)

Evan Tsai (bass)

Sean Yu (cello)

## Meet the Saturdays with the Stulberg Artists!

Cellist **Oliver Herbert** (2015 Silver), a San Francisco native, is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, and has studied under Carter Brey, Peter Wiley, and Clive Greensmith. In addition to the Stulberg, Herbert has won top prizes in the Irving M. Klein International String Competition (2015), the XI Witold Lutoslawski International Cello Competition (2018), and the Verbier Festival (2017). He has performed as a soloist with the San Francisco Symphony, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Warsaw Philharmonic, and Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, among many others. His debut album, *Frame of Mind: Fauré and Janáček* (with Xiaohui Yang, piano), was released this past June.

South Korean violist **Haesue Lee** (2015 Bronze) studies at the Curtis Institute of Music with Roberto Díaz and Hsin-Yun Huang. She has won top prizes at the Johansen International Competition (2015), the Philadelphia Orchestra's Albert M. Greenfield Competition (2014), the Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition (2016), and the Primrose International Viola Competition (2018), and, of course, the Stulberg. Her many solo performances include appearances with the Curtis Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Prince George's Philharmonic Orchestra, and Ensemble 212.

Violinist **Charlotte Marckx** (2018 Gold) studies at the Colburn Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles with David Lipsett, and was recently awarded the prestigious Davidson Fellows scholarship. She has soloed with many ensembles, including the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, the Seattle Chamber Music Society and the Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival, and has been featured on NPR's *From the Top*. In addition to classical repertoire, Charlotte has collaborated with groups of various genres, including *Time for Three* and *Pink Martini*, as well as arranging and performing for her duo *Sempre Sisters* with her sister, cellist Olivia Marckx.

**How has your musicianship changed or evolved during quarantine? How have you been spending your time with your instrument?**



**Oliver Herbert:** *Because there are fewer set repertoire and timeframe deadlines these days, I have been having fun letting my cello practice be led by whatever I happen to be inspired by any given day. I've also become very interested in creating some of my own musical projects with technology, especially involving video and animation!*



**Haesue Lee:** *Since the pandemic, I've spent a lot more quality time with my instrument. I finally got the time to sit down and really study and explore ways of playing the instrument. Also I've got the time to read new music!*

*One thing that I've started to do more frequently, is teaching. Teaching a student actually helped myself to carefully analyze the piece and the technique of viola playing itself.*



**Charlotte Marckx:** *I am actually enjoying quarantine quite a bit! It means I can be home with my family and spend time with my instrument without the distractions of day-to-day living in the dorms! A fun side benefit of being home is that our family decided to adopt a kitten from a local shelter. Her name is Sabrina, and she loves music and jumping on my legs while I practice!!!*

**How did your experience with the Stulberg affect your musical trajectory?**



**Oliver Herbert:** *I was blown away by the welcoming and supportive atmosphere of the competition, and left feeling empowered and confident to set more musical goals for myself, and to try to reach new artistic heights! Every time I return to Kalamazoo I feel the warmth of the Stulberg community, and I find it so incredible how they continue to support all of the participants throughout their careers.*



**Haesue Lee:** *Stulberg has given me great opportunities. Winning a Stulberg medal itself is such an honor, but also having the opportunity to play with an orchestra was a very valuable time for me. It was a very educational experience at that time as a young musician.*

*Also through the Stulberg competition, I am so grateful to have met so many wonderful colleagues. They have been so inspirational to me throughout the competition and until now!*



**Charlotte Marckx:** *My experience with the Stulberg remains a highlight of my musical career thus far. The competition was so professional and the other competitors were of such a high caliber that I still can't quite believe I was chosen as the gold medalist! Having the full reputation of the Stulberg competition behind me gives me huge credibility as a musician.*



**Stulberg Board member, Sakhi Vyas sits down with 2020 Gold Medalist, Dongyoung Jake Shim, about his Stulberg win, life as a musician during a pandemic, and more...**

The 2020 Stulberg Gold Medalist, 18-year-old Dongyoung Jake Shim, is a student of Donald Weilerstein and attends the New England Conservatory. He is now back in Gyeonggi-do, South Korea with his family to stay safe during the global pandemic. This summer, he shared a bit more about himself with the Stulberg family.

**On becoming interested in the violin:** *"My family and I saw The Nutcracker Ballet Christmas Eve when I was 5 years old and it made me get started with music. The concert was just beautiful. I was touched by the concert and I started to play some music on violin."*

**On family:** *"My parents love listening as well as playing music. My mother plays the clarinet and my father plays the guitar as a hobby. My sister also plays the violin and these days, since I'm staying here in Korea, we often play some pieces together, which is fun. Also I have an 8 year-old dog with me. Although I miss my friends at NEC, I'm happy I can have time with my family as well as my dog during this time in Korea relaxing at home."*

**On preparing for competitions and performances:**

*"I always try to feel relaxed not only mentally but also physically. Practicing scales helps me a lot. Also, I try to visualize my sound projecting all the way to the end of the stage."*

**How the global pandemic changed things:**

*"Studio classes, lessons, and concert series are all going online and I miss the stage and audiences so much. I hope we all can meet each other and interact through music soon."*

**If you could have a superpower, what would it be?**

*"It might be cool if I can copy myself. I have so many things I want to do."*

**If you didn't have any responsibilities tomorrow, how would you spend your day?**

*"I would like to steal Augustin Hadelich's violin and play on it for a day."*

**Favorite ice cream flavor?**

*"Mint chocolate chip"*

**Advice for other young musicians?**

*"Basics are crucial. Always practice scales. Always be there. Concerts are necessary. Trust yourself."*

**What are some non-musical activities that keep you busy?**

*"I have collected mini cars since when I was 5 years old. Also, I love reading."*

**What was your average day like pre-covid and also nowadays -- can you describe an average day in your life?**

*"Besides practice, I take classes and have time with my friends going to concerts and eating food. These days, I teach some students as well waiting for the USA to get better."*



## Stulberg's Executive Director position changes hands: "thank you" to Margaret Hamilton and "welcome" to Megan Yankee



New Executive Director Megan Yankee has replaced Margaret Hamilton, who had served in the position since 2013 and announced her year-end retirement earlier this year.

"We are delighted to welcome Megan to the Stulberg," said past Board president Jane Rooks Ross. "Her energy, experiences and vision will serve us well as we support gifted young string players nationally, internationally, and in our own community."

Yankee is a respected musician and leader with experience in the arts and social services. Her arts experience includes operations, marketing and development positions with the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings, The Philadelphia Orchestra and The Music Center of South Central Michigan.

Her social service leadership positions include The Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors in Grand Rapids, The Boy Scouts of America and as Senior Development Manager of the Community Healing Centers in Kalamazoo.

Yankee is a graduate of Western Michigan University, with a Bachelor of Arts in Nonprofit Management and earned credentials through the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance as a Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP). She is a trained violinist, and has served as president of the Board of Trustees for the Suzuki Academy of Kalamazoo and as a grant review panelist for Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs.

Megan lives in the Kalamazoo area and is COVID quarantining with her husband (Patrick), two virtually learning children (Rowan, 8, and Quinn, 4) and her two dogs, who double as her running buddies (Ruby and Banjo).



Margaret with her Covid companions, Maisie and Libby (photo credit to Covid companion Rod Carpenter)

Former Executive Director Margaret Hamilton proudly turned over the reins of the Competition to Megan Yankee at the end of January, 2020. Margaret's post-Stulberg plans are to devote more time to family, teaching, and playing. As the pandemic took hold, she joined the ranks of teachers plunging headfirst into online instruction, and is grateful to her students at the Crescendo Academy of Music and Kalamazoo College for rising to the challenge with her. A longtime member of the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra horn section, she's looking

forward to the resumption of live performances as soon as possible. Social media has allowed Margaret to stay in touch with many of the extraordinary young artists, their parents, board members, and non-profit colleagues who made her tenure at the Stulberg so rewarding. She cheered for the Stulberg Class of 2020 online and hopes to be cheering for the Class of 2021 in May from inside Dalton Center's Recital Hall!

## 2020-2021 STULBERG SEASON

**February 7, 2021 | 6:00 PM**

Chenery Auditorium

Bronze Medalist Masha Lakisova with the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra

**February 27, 2021 | 8:00 PM**

Dalton Center, Western Michigan University

Silver Medalist Yeyeong Jin with the WMU University Symphony Orchestra

**February 2021 (DATE TBA)**

Gold Medalist Dongyoung Jake Shim with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra

**May 22, 2021**

**46th Stulberg International String Competition**

Dalton Center, Western Michigan University

**May 23, 2021**

**Master Classes**

Dalton Center, Western Michigan University

## Applications Open October 15, 2020 for the 46th Stulberg International String Competition

Applications will be open on October 15, 2020 for the 46th Stulberg International String Competition. This year's judges are violinist Mitchell Newman, violist Cynthia Phelps, and cellist Sara Sant'Ambrogio. For more information and to apply, please visit our website: [www.stulberg.org](http://www.stulberg.org).

## Coming Soon...

The Stulberg announces a website redesign! Check it out at [www.stulberg.org](http://www.stulberg.org).

## Become a Stulberg Supporter!

The Stulberg helps young musicians of all ages both nationally and right here in the Kalamazoo area through our competition, outreach, and valuable partnerships. We can grow and support these young musicians because of sponsors and individual donors. You can view our sponsorship opportunities on our website. Please consider supporting this important cultural gem by making a gift today either online at [www.stulberg.org](http://www.stulberg.org) or by mail at 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Ste 14, Kalamazoo, MI 49007.



## Outreach with Stulberg

The Stulberg International String Competition partners with local music schools such as Suzuki Academy of Kalamazoo, Cresendo Academy of Music and private studios to provide outreach opportunities for local string players. This year, we tried something new; a Play-In Challenge!

2019 Bronze Medalist Sory Park, returned to Kalamazoo in February, 2020. Approximately 60 local string students arrived for the first Stulberg Play-in Challenge, ready to test their skills by performing their chosen pieces and drawing a challenge from a hat. Challenges included hoola hooping while playing Bach, standing on one foot while playing Mozart, bowing for your neighbor and more! It was a great opportunity for local students to laugh and enjoy their instruments in a new way while also interacting and getting a wonderful demonstration from Sory Park.



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