MMAMTA and Odyssey Chamber Music Series
Present

The 2021 Pre-Collegiate Aria/Concerto Competition

Sunday, January 10, 2021 at 3:00pm
First Baptist Church in Columbia

Program

Introduction
Ayako Tsuruta, MMAMTA President and Odyssey Director

Contestant No. 1
Natalie Robuck, voice
W. A. Mozart: Voi che sapate, K. 492
Christine Nichols, orchestral accompaniment

Contestant No. 2
Ema Iwasaki, piano
W. A. Mozart: Piano Concerto in A Major, K. 488
I. Allegro
Judith Shaw, orchestral accompaniment

Contestant No. 3
Jay Lipsutz, viola
J. Stamitz: Concerto in D Major, Op. 1
I. Allegro
Vera Parkin, orchestral accompaniment

Contestant No. 4
Kristen Yu, piano
W. A. Mozart: Piano Concerto in E-flat Major, K. 271
I. Allegro
Bomi Kim, orchestral accompaniment

Contestant No. 5
Wendy Kleintank, voice
G. F. Handel: Tornami a vagheggiar, from Alcina
Ross Dryer, orchestral accompaniment

Intermission (10 min)

Contestant No. 6
Ava Andrews, violin
S. Prokofiev: Violin Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 63
I. Allegro moderato
Nina Ferrigno, orchestral accompaniment
Contestant No. 7  
Joan Kwon, piano  
[7’00]  
F. Chopin: Piano Concerto No. 2 in F Minor, Op. 21  
II. Larghetto  
Ayako Tsuruta, orchestral accompaniment

Contestant No. 8  
Daniel Diringer, cello  
[11’00]  
A. Dvořák: Cello Concerto in B Minor, Op. 104  
I. Allegro  
Vera Parkin, orchestral accompaniment

Contestant No. 9  
Sophia Heaton, violin  
[13’00]  
F. Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto in E Minor, Op. 64  
I. Allegro molto appassionato  
Vera Parkin, orchestral accompaniment

Intermission (10 min)

Contestant No. 10  
Nicole Parker, cello  
[5’00]  
C. Saint-Saëns: Cello Concerto No. 1 in A Minor, Op. 33  
I. Allegro non troppo  
Ross Dryer, orchestral accompaniment

Contestant No. 11  
Taehee Oh, piano  
[10’00]  
C. Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 22  
I. Andante sostenuto  
Ayako Tsuruta, orchestral accompaniment

Contestant No. 12  
Yiyun Xu, violin  
[8’00]  
C. Saint-Saëns: Violin Concerto No. 3 in B Minor, Op. 61  
I. Allegro non troppo  
Vera Parkin, orchestral accompaniment

Contestant No. 13  
Benjamin Smith, cello  
[7’00]  
D. Shostakovich: Cello Concerto No. 1 in E-flat Major, Op. 107  
I. Allegretto  
Ross Dryer, orchestral accompaniment

Judges deliberate.  
Result announcement.

The 2021 Pre-Collegiate Aria/Concerto Competition is sponsored by MMAMTA and Odyssey Chamber Music Series.
The 2021 Competition Judges

**Hans Bridger Heruth** is an award-winning composer and performer pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in composition and violin and voice performance at the University of Missouri on a composition scholarship from the Sinquefield Charitable Foundation. Heruth’s works have been performed by many different ensembles, including the Midwest Chamber Ensemble, the Columbia Civic Orchestra, the KC VITAs Chamber Choir, the Heartland Men’s Chorus, the University of Missouri’s University Singers, the Mizzou New Music Ensemble, members of the St. Louis Symphony, and Deviant Septet. In addition to these ensembles, his works have been performed by renowned solo musicians, including world-famous tenor Steven Tharp, pianist Paola Savvidou of the New Muse Piano Duo, and violinist Eva Szekely. Most recently, Heruth had the world premiere of his chamber opera, “A Certain Madness”, commissioned by the Show-Me Opera Program. Heruth was a finalist for both the 2015 Sinquefield Prize in Composition and the 2016 ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composers Award, and was a finalist for the 2018 American Prize in Composition for both the choral and vocal chamber divisions. As a performer, Heruth has frequently performed as a violinst with the Missouri Symphony Orchestra, the Columbia Civic Orchestra, the Southside Philharmonic, and the University Philharmonic at the University of Missouri. As an opera singer, Heruth has performed various roles such as Leporello in Mozart’s Don Giovanni, Basilio in Rossini’s Il barbiere di Siviglia, and Ford in Verdi’s Falstaff in scenes, and Bartolo in Mozart’s Le nozze di Figaro and Simon Stimson in Ned Rorem’s Our Town in a full production, all with the University of Missouri’s Show-Me Opera. He is also an active collaborative pianist, and enjoys playing for many solo musicians and accompanying the University Singers under the direction of Dr. R Paul Crabb.

**Dr. Peter Miyamoto** enjoys a brilliant international career, performing to great acclaim in recital and as soloist in Canada, England, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Switzerland, China, and Japan, and in major US cities such as Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Washington D.C. In 1990, Miyamoto was named the first Gilmore Young Artist. He won numerous other competitions, including the American Pianist Association National Fellowship Competition, the D’Angelo Competition, the San Francisco Symphony Competition and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Competition. Dr. Miyamoto holds degrees from the Curtis Institute of Music, Yale University School of Music, Michigan State University, and the Royal Academy of Music in London. His teachers included Maria Curcio-Diamond, Leon Fleisher, Claude Frank, Peter Frankl, Marek Jablonski, Aube Tzerko, and Ralph Votapek, and Felix Galimir, Szymon Goldberg and Lorand Fenyves for chamber music. He has collaborated in performances with members of the Borromeo, Pacifica and Euclid Quartets as well as instrumentalists such as Charles Castleman, Victor Danchenko, Joel Krosnick, Anthony McGill, David Shifrin, Lara St. John, and Allan Vogel, among many others. Currently Professor of Piano at the University of Missouri, Peter Miyamoto formerly taught at Michigan State University, and the California Institute of the Arts. After serving as head of the piano faculty at the New York Summer Music Festival 2003-2015, he now teaches at the Curtis Institute of Music’s Young Artist Summer Program in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Miyamoto has given master classes at major institutions throughout the United States as well as internationally in Canada, China, Greece, Japan and Serbia. Peter Miyamoto has released four CDs of solo piano music on the Blue-Griffin Label. More information is available on his web site, www.petermiyamoto.com.
Biographies

Ava Andrews was born in Boston, Massachusetts and moved to St. Louis with her family when she was four years old. Currently a senior at Webster Groves High School, Ava is 17 years old, has been playing music for 12 years, and currently studies with Angie Smart of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. Ava plays chamber music in the Preparatory Program at the Community Music School of Webster University, and is Assistant Concertmaster of the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra. She has been in the Missouri All-State Orchestra each of the past 2 years, and has spent summers at the Interlochen Arts Camp and the Jacobs School of Music Summer Strings Academy. She’s always had a very deep love of music and performing, and her goal for the future is to become an ensemble member of a wonderful orchestra! Ava really enjoys playing music and is hoping to study Violin Performance in college!

Daniel Diringer is 18 years old and in the 12th grade at Ladue High School. He has been studying cello at the Community Music School (CMS) of Webster University for 15 years, initially with Mary Lou Gotman and subsequently Catherine Lehr Ramos. He participated in all levels of CMS orchestras and has been in the CMS Preparatory Program for 5 years. He was principal cellist in the All-Suburban Middle School Honors orchestra, the Ladue Middle School orchstras, and both the Ladue High School Symphonic and Chamber Orchestras. He has been a cellist in the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra since 7th grade and in the Missouri All-State Orchestra since 9th grade. Daniel has received artistic merit scholarships from CMS for the past 8 years. He was awarded first prize in the international Great Composers Competition, Best Brahms Performance in 2019. In 2020, he won the Artist Presentation Society competition, the St. Charles Community College Solo Competition, and received Honorable Mention in the MTNA Senior Strings Competition. Aside from music, his other passion is baseball—he is a Yankees fan and plays catcher for the Ladue High School Varsity Baseball Team and the Adidas Athletics All-Academic Baseball Team. He plans to study cello performance in college.

Sophia Heaton, age 15, lives in Fulton, Missouri, and is a home-educated, high school freshman. She began playing violin at the age of 3 in a Suzuki strings program in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. After moving to St. Louis, she studied with David Liu for five years, and currently studies with Angie Smart. Sophia is in her second season as a violinist with the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra (YO). In addition to YO, she participates in the Preparatory Program (Prep) of the Community Music School of Webster University, and frequently plays violin for worship services at her church. Before joining Prep, she played in the Suzuki Strings Program, and three successive orchestras of the Webster CMS: The String Ensemble, String Orchestra, and the Young People’s Concert Orchestra. She was the Music Teachers’ National Association – 2018 Winner and 2019 Alternate Winner of the Missouri Junior String Competition, and 2020 Winner of the Missouri Senior String Competition. Aside from playing violin, she enjoys reading, bird-watching, sewing doll clothes, writing stories, baking, listening to classical music, and drawing garden plans. Sophia is thankful for the excellent musicians and conductors she has been privileged to study under. She would especially like to thank David Liu, Patrick Jackson (YPCO conductor), Davin Rubicz (Prep), Vera Parkin (Prep), and Angie Smart. She has highly valued their instruction, advice and encouragement. She is also grateful for the support of her parents and grandparents who love to cheer her on. Above all, Sophia is thankful to God, and seeks to honor Him in her life and music.

Ema Iwasaki is a 9th grader at Rock Bridge High School, and this is her second year participating in the Odyssey Concerto Competition. She started her study in piano at the age of four in Japan and is currently studying under the instruction of Judith Shaw. Ema has received two winner’s titles from MMTA in the years of 2017 and 2018, and has received runner-up and honorable mention titles throughout the last six years. She has also participated in the Music Federation for the past seven years, the Piano Showcase in the years 2016 and 2020, the Odyssey Carnival of the Animals music series in 2018, and the Blind Boone Concert in 2019. She has also participated in numerous fundraisers and volunteered at Nursing Homes, where she played the piano. Besides the piano, Ema is also part of the Chambers Orchestra at her school, where she plays the violin. She also has several years of study in the art of ballet, where she has taken part in Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland with the Missouri Contemporary Ballet and the Moscow Ballet’s Great Russian Nutcracker with the Missouri Contemporary Ballet. Ema is also a second-degree black belt in the study of Martial Arts of Taekwondo. Over the course of the year, Ema has also created a podcast with her best friend in which they talk about political actions in Columbia and is part of the Journalism Department of her high school, and has also taken a liking to creating her own piano pieces with her knowledge in piano. Along with
Biographies

creating original pieces, she and her friend has also created music pieces together in which she plays the piano and sings along with her friend who has study in singing.

Wendy Kleintank is originally from North Manchester, Indiana, and is currently living in Sedalia, Missouri, where she is a senior in high school. She has been playing the violin for 13 years and taking vocal lessons for 1 year. At age 12 Wendy joined the Manchester University Orchestra in North Manchester, Indiana, and three years later, she joined the Huntington University Orchestra in Huntington, Indiana. After attending the Esterhazy String Quartet Seminar for two years, she was offered the opportunity to study with Eva Szekely. At 16 Wendy started studying at the University of Missouri, taking violin lessons with Eva Szekely, participating in studio class, taking chamber music, and becoming a member of the Mizzou University Philharmonic Orchestra. She has performed with the Mizzou University Philharmonic Orchestra at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, has presented a solo recital at The Honeywell House, and her string quartet has participated in a masterclass with Michael Stern at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. She has also won first place for the senior strings division at the MMTA State Competition, and performed with many orchestras and ensembles including the Missouri Symphony Orchestra, The Columbia Civic Orchestra, and The Chamber Soloists. Wendy founded the Alainn Ceol Quartet, which has performed at various locations in Sedalia and Columbia. At 17 she started taking vocal lessons with Kris Stephens, and in September Wendy started taking lessons with Christine Seitz, as well as taking part in her studio class. Wendy has sung at many churches and venues in the area, and she teaches both voice and violin lessons at Wilkens Music Store in Sedalia.

Joan Kwon is in 10th grade at Rock Bridge High School. As a student of Beverly Kyriakos and Ayako Tsuruta, Joan has played piano for 10 years, and has participated in auditions including Federation, Piano Guild and MMTA. Joan placed as a runner-up at the 2019 MMTA State Competition. She has also performed for the Piano Showcase, Blind Boone Concert Series and Odyssey's Kids@Heart. Joan has participated in the 2017 Odyssey Chamber Music Festival, which was her first summer music camp experience. In addition to playing the piano, Joan also participates in MOSY Conservatory’s Young Artist Philharmonic and Chamber Players, and Rock Bridge High School Chamber Orchestra as a violinist. Joan is active in Science Olympiad, Math Club, and Rock Bridge High School Debate team. In her spare time, she loves to watch movies and write screenplays.

Jay Lipsutz has played with the Prep Program at Webster Community Music School for four years under the direction of the remarkable Vera Parkin. He has also participated in CMS’s orchestral programs, including the Young People’s Concert Orchestra and Young People’s Symphonic Orchestra. In the summer of 2019, Jay went to the Interlochen Academy of Arts Camp and greatly enjoyed meeting new friends and playing new music with the World Youth Symphony Orchestra. Jay has participated in the Missouri All-State Orchestra for the past two years and was principal viola in 2020. He has also been a member of the Parkway North symphonic orchestra on violin for the past four years, and greatly appreciates his orchestra teacher, Ken Rapini. In 2020, Jay participated in two virtual competitions, the Alton Symphony Orchestra’s Young Artists Competition, earning second place, and the UMSL’s Young Artist Competition in the Junior Division, earning first place. Jay has done two solo performances per year in recitals since 2015 through the Webster Community Music School Preparatory Program. Beside music, Jay enjoys hanging out with friends and reading. His favorite subjects in school are English and history. Jay would like to thank his dad, Gary Lipsutz, for being the reason he started music in the first place. He will never forget the importance of the instruction he received from him when he first became a music student.

Taehee Oh is 15 years old and is a sophomore at Hickman high school. She started playing piano at an age of 5 and has continued her piano career throughout the years. She has participated in MMTA for 3 consecutive years now and has been the winner and received honorable mention. Taehee has also participated in other piano competitions such as Missouri Symphony Piano Showcase, Odyssey Pre-Collegiate Concerto Competition, Federation, and Guild competition where she continued to do well. Currently she is studying with Ayako Tsuruta and she loves playing piano under her guidance. Taehee also plays the violin under the guidance of Amy Appold and has been a runner-up in the 2019 MMTA. She also participates in MOSY Conservatory’s Young Artist Philharmonic, Chamber Players and Utopia Quartet. At her school, she plays the clarinet in Wind Ensemble. Outside of music, Taehee is active in Hickman Steering Committee and Hickman Speech and Debate team.
Nicole Parker is a junior at Hickman High School. She began studying the cello with Mary Manulik at the age of 7, and currently studies with Dr. Eli Lara. Nicole participated in both the 2019 and 2020 Missouri All-State Orchestras. She received an honorable mention for the 2019 Missouri Music Teachers Association (MMTA) State Senior Strings competition. She received an honorable mention for the 2020 Odyssey Chamber Music Series Concerto Competition. She is a member of the Young Artists Philharmonic and Chamber Players. She is also a member of the Cloud 9 Quartet at MOSY Conservatory, as well as the BNB Trio, which won the 2020 MMTA State Chamber Music Competition (Senior Level) with the highest praises. Nicole is very passionate about music and plans to pursue a career in music. In her spare times she enjoys reading, hiking, camping, canoeing and spending time with her family.

Natalie Robuck is a senior at the Rock Bridge High School. She has studied voice for 5 years with Christine Nichols. Natalie has participated in the Northeast Missouri District Contest as a vocalist in her freshman and sophomore years, where she has received highest scores. She also participated in Vocal Solo State Contest in her sophomore year. Natalie was given multiple opportunities to sing solos in choirs, both with her school and with the Columbia Youth Choirs. In January 2020, Natalie was in the Missouri All-State Choir. Singing is her passion, and she has attended Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, three sessions in the Chamber Choir and SATB choir.

Born in Canada in 2006, Benjamin Smith grew up in Omaha, Nebraska and began studying cello at 5 years of age (with some trumpet on the side) at the Omaha Conservatory of Music, studying primarily with Tim Strang. In 2018, he moved to Columbia, where he now studies with Kirk Trevor, and performs in the Missouri Symphony Conservatory orchestras and chamber programs. He performs in master classes with Jun Seo, David Kim and Alan Richardson. Homeschooled from an early age, Benjamin is now a freshman at Rock Bridge High School. He was 2020 Finalist for the Missouri MTNA junior strings competition.

Kristen Yu is a freshman at Rock Bridge High School. She is very passionate about music. She has been a student of Mabel Kinder since she was in kindergarten and studies the viola with Professor Leslie Perna. Kristen has grown up performing on stage for audiences. In addition to several winners’ recitals in Missouri Music Teachers Association (MMTA), she has been selected to play in Piano Showcase at Missouri Theatre nine times since 2011 and was also honored to play all three movements of the Mozart Piano Sonata K. 545 in the Blind Boone Piano Concert in 2016. For viola, she was chosen to perform a solo at Lenoir Woods as part of the 2019 Missouri Conservatory Concert. As a founding member of Cloud 9 String Quartet, she performs her viola for the community with the other members for many events, including the 2019 True/False Film Fest, Holiday Home Tour, the Boone County Medical Society Annual Meeting, Aeolus String Quartet Master Class in 2020, and the Missouri Conservatory Concerts. Kristen has been grateful to be awarded many times in the MMTA State Competition for both piano and viola. For piano, she was the state Winner four times, recently including 2019 and 2020. She received “Runner-Up” three times, as well as getting “Honorable Mention” twice. For viola, she participated in the MMTA State String Competition twice in 2019 and 2020 for the 7th-9th grade level, and was presented with “Honorable Mention” and “Runner Up,” respectively. She also earned the Superior rating in both solo and concerto competitions in the National Federation along with Piano Guild auditions for nine years. Kristen’s excellence in music was recognized by the Most Promising Musician Award and Scholarship, which was bestowed in the 2019 Missouri Symphony’s Piano Showcase. To show support for the town she loves, Kristen volunteers on the music team and hosts the preschool service for her church. Although this pandemic has introduced many difficulties for her, Kristen was able to form a deeper connection with her music. Whatever the future may hold for her, music will surely continue to be a lifetime pleasure.

Yiyun Xu started playing the violin when she was ten years old. Now in her seventh year playing the violin, she is a student of Angie Smart. Yiyun has performed as a soloist with the Young People’s Symphonic Orchestra of Webster Groves in St. Louis. She was also scheduled to perform another concerto with the Belleville Symphonic Orchestra in Illinois, but unfortunately that performance was cancelled due to the pandemic. At 14, Yiyun won a Runner-Up in the Junior Strings and Honorable Mention in the more recent 2020 Senior Strings at the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) competitions at the state level, when she was 16.
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[January 1, 2020 – January 8, 2021]

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Missouri Arts Council
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Nikki and Aaron Krawitz
Jae and Eunsook Kwon
Kate Kwon
Patricia Koonce

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Anne-Marie Foley
Julia Gaines
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Siri Geenen
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Karen Grundy
Pat Gulmez
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David Mehr
Glена Moum
Jerry Murrell
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C. Jerry Nelson
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Paul and Christine Seitz
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Stephanie Zhang

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Allison Brenner
Jingxi Chu
Craig Datz
Carole DeLaite
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