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Saint Paul String Quartet Competition

Year
19

April 13, 2024

JUNIOR DIVISION

~ Final Rounds ~

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Final Round Jury

Parker Quartet
Daniel Chong, violin
Ken Hamao, violin
Jessica Bodner, viola
Kee-Hyun Kim, 'cello

The Parker Quartet's participation today is made possible by MacPhail Center for the Arts.



Selection Jury

Daniel Ching, violin Miró Quartet
Nancy Oliveros, violin Artaria String Quartet
Chauncy Patterson, viola Miami String Quartet
Nina Lee, 'cello Brentano Quartet



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The 2024 Saint Paul String Quartet Competition is grateful to the generous individual and corporate sponsors that have made this event possible.

SPSQC welcomes Tommy Barbarella as Sundin Music Hall's new Music Director.

TODAY'S JURY

Internationally recognized for their “fearless, yet probingly beautiful” (The Strad) performances, the Grammy Award-winning **PARKER QUARTET** has distinguished itself as one of the preeminent ensembles of its generation, dedicated purely to the sound and depth of their music. Inspired performances and exceptional musicianship are hallmarks of the Quartet, having appeared at the world’s most illustrious venues since its founding in 2002.

Recent seasons included performances around the United States and Europe, including Wigmore Hall, Konzerthaus Berlin, Music Toronto, Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, Strathmore, San Antonio Chamber Music Society, University of Chicago, the Schubert Club, and Kansas City’s Friends of Chamber Music.

Their 20th anniversary was marked in the 2022-23 season with The Beethoven Project, a multi-faceted initiative which includes performances of the complete cycle of Beethoven’s string quartets; the commissioning of six composers to write encores inspired by Beethoven’s quartets; the creation of a new video library spotlighting each Beethoven quartet; and bringing Beethoven’s music to non-traditional venues around the Quartet’s home base of Boston, including homeless shelters and youth programs.

The Quartet is committed to working with composers of today — recent commissions include works by Augusta Read Thomas, Felipe Lara, Jaehyuck Choi, and Zosha di Castri. Celebrating the process of creation, the Quartet recorded three new commissions by Kate Soper, Oscar Bettison, and Vijay Iyer as part of Miller Theatre’s Mission: Commission podcast.

Additionally, the Quartet regularly collaborates with a diverse range of artists, which have included pianists Menahem Pressler, Orion Weiss, Shai Wosner, Billy Childs, and Vijay Iyer; members of the Silk Road Ensemble; clarinetist and composer Jörg Widmann; clarinetists Anthony McGill and Charles Neidich; flutist Claire Chase; and violist Kim Kashkashian, featured on their recent Dvořák recording. The Quartet also continues to be a strong supporter of Kashkashian’s project Music for Food, participating in concerts throughout the United States for the benefit of various food banks and shelters.

Recording projects continue to be an important facet of the Quartet’s artistic output. Described by Gramophone Magazine as a “string quartet defined by virtuosity so agile that it’s indistinguishable from the process of emotional expression,” their newest release for ECM Records features Dvořák’s Viola Quintet as well as György Kurtág’s Six Moments Musicaux and Officium breve in memoriam. The Strad also declared the album as “nothing short of astonishing.” Under the auspices of the Monte Carlo Festival Printemps des Arts, they recorded a disc of three Beethoven quartets, of which Diapason “admired the group’s fearlessness, exceptional control, and attention to detail.” The Quartet can also be heard playing Mendelssohn on Nimbus Records, Bartók on Zig-Zag Territoires, and the complete Ligeti Quartets on Naxos, for which they won a Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music Performance. The members of the Parker Quartet serve as Professors of the Practice and Blodgett Artists-in-Residence at Harvard University’s Department of Music. The Quartet also holds a visiting residency at the University of South Carolina and spends its summers on faculty at the Banff Centre’s Evolution: Quartet program. For the 23-24 season they will be involved in a visiting residency at the Walnut Hill School for the Arts, in Natick, MA, working with gifted high school musicians.

Founded and currently based in Boston, the Parker Quartet’s numerous honors include winning the Concert Artists Guild Competition, the Grand Prix and Mozart Prize at France’s Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition, and Chamber Music America’s prestigious Cleveland Quartet Award.

SELECTION JURY

DANIEL CHING, a founding member of the Miró Quartet, began his violin studies at the age of 3 under tutelage of his father. At age 5, he entered the San Francisco Conservatory Preparatory Division on a full twelve-year scholarship, where he studied violin with Serban



Rusu and Zaven Melikian, and chamber music with Susan Bates. At the age of 10, Daniel was first introduced to string quartets. A graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Daniel studied violin with Kathleen Winkler, Roland and Almita Vamos, and conducting with Robert Spano and Peter Jaffe. He completed his Masters degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he studied with former Cleveland Quartet violinist Donald Weilerstein. He also studied recording engineering and production with Thomas Knab of Telarc, and subsequently engineered the Miró Quartet’s first promotional disc. Daniel is on faculty at the Sarah and Ernest Butler School of Music at the University of Texas at Austin, where he teaches private violin students and coaches chamber music. He concurrently maintains an active international touring schedule as a member of the Miró Quartet. Daniel is a discerning connoisseur of all things cinematic and electronic. Before he became a busy parent, Daniel was an avid skier and a dedicated reader of science fiction—he looks forward to returning to those passions, some day. In his free time, Daniel enjoys hosting happy hours with friends and lounging at home with his wife Sandy, their two sons, and two cats.

A founding member of the critically acclaimed Artaria String Quartet, violinist **NANCY OLIVEROS** has performed at renowned venues in New York, Boston, Atlanta, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Chicago, and other celebrated spots in the United States and Europe. She is a recipient of a coveted McKnight Fellowship and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, Chamber Music America, and the Minnesota State Arts Board for performance and educational outreach projects. In Minnesota, Nancy is one of the founders of the Stringwood Summer Chamber Music Festival, and the Artaria Chamber Music School, a weekly coaching program in St. Paul. Formerly, she was Artist/Teacher in Residence at the world-renowned Tanglewood Institute, coaching alongside her mentors Norman Fischer and the Muir Quartet. With the ASQ, she competed at the finals of the Banff International String Quartet Competition, and was a protege of Walter Levine at ProQuartet and the L’Epau Festival in France. She was a fellowship student at Aspen, Kneisel Hall, and the Florida Festival and was a graduate teaching assistant and concertmaster at The Florida State University and Boston University studying violin and chamber music with Roman Totenberg, Eugene Lehner, Raphael Hillyer, and the Muir Quartet. Further studies in Chamber Music were mentored by members of the Budapest, Juilliard, La Salle, and Cleveland Quartets. She is delighted to own and perform on a rare 1781 Neapolitan violin by Tomaso Eberle.



CHAUNCEY PATTERSON began his professional career at the age of 23 as Assistant Principal Viola of the Denver Symphony. He was eventually appointed Principal Viola by Music Director Phillipe Entremont, and his next post was Principal Viola of the Buffalo Philharmonic under the direction of Seymon Bychkov. During his stay in Buffalo, Mr. Patterson was offered and accepted the Viola position in the award winning Miami String Quartet.

Following his tenure with the MSQ, he served as interim violist of the world renowned Fine Arts Quartet. He currently resides in Miami, Florida, where he serves as Solo Viola of the Florida Grand Opera.

Mr. Patterson's faculty affiliations include: The Cleveland Institute of Music, Blossom School of Music, Kent State University, Hartt School of Music, Encore School for Strings, Eastern Music Festival, University of Charleston (W.V.), University of Denver, New World School of the Arts, Florida International University, and the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. He is currently chamber music faculty at Lynn University Conservatory of Music.



Mr. Patterson attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Cleveland Institute of Music, and the Curtis Institute, where he studied with Ann Woodward, Robert Vernon, Karen Tuttle and Michael Tree respectively.

Through a public school program, **NINA LEE** began learning cello in Chesterfield, MO at the age of ten. Six years later, she left home to study with David Soyer at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, PA. She went on to complete her Bachelors and Masters of Music at the Juilliard School in New York City with Joel Krosnick, attended the Tanglewood Music Festival, and toured with the Marlboro Music Festival where she collaborated with Mitsuko Uchida, Andras Schiff, Felix Galimir and Samuel Rhodes.

In 1999, Ms. Lee joined the Brentano Quartet with whom she has been privileged to perform throughout North America, Australia, New Zealand, England, France, Germany, Spain, Japan, the Netherlands, Belgium and Italy. In addition, she has not only recorded the music of Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven but has also championed new music represented in her quartet's commissioned works of Stephen Hartke, Steve Mackey, Vijay Iyer, James MacMillan, Bruce Adolphe, Sofia Gubaidulina, and Shulamit Ran (to name a few).

Among the various projects the Brentano Quartet has undertaken, it was asked to record the soundtrack to the 2012 film, "A Late Quartet" which centered around Beethoven's Op. 131. The film, starring Philip Seymour Hoffman, Christopher Walken and Catherine Keener also featured Ms. Lee playing herself in a cameo.



As important to her life as a musician, Ms. Lee has made a commitment to teaching chamber music. She has been on the faculty at Princeton and Columbia Universities and is currently coaching chamber music at the Yale School of Music where the Brentano Quartet is in residence. She has also participated as a guest faculty member at the St. Lawrence String Quartet Chamber Music Seminar and the Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music. She also has made appearances at the Spoleto Festival USA and La Jolla SummerFest.

Ms. Lee makes her home in Brooklyn, New York where she lives with her husband and 2 children. When she isn't playing the cello or teaching, she loves spending time with her family, cooking, entertaining, organizing chamber music salons and finding new ways to be creative!

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A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

“Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do.” ~ Steve Jobs

Dear friends of chamber music,

The music you hear today is filled with Love. From the first notes that captured the imagination of humanity to the exquisite playing you are hearing today, these fine young players are filling their hearts and minds with new ideas and a longer vision of possibilities. Guided by wisdom and trust in their elders, and accompanied by the love of their parents, teachers, and friends, I truly believe they love what they are doing.

The Saint Paul String Quartet Competition brings people together to celebrate beauty in the intimate environs of chamber music broadcast to the world. The Final Rounds of the competition showcase the best prepared and perhaps the most dedicated high school age string quartets currently in the country. These seven superb young quartets will share with us today some of the most beautiful music ever composed.

Today’s jury is the excellent Parker Quartet. They will listen to and score each performance with detailed written comments in the following categories: Tone Quality, Intonation, Ensemble & Balance, and Musical Ideas.

The 2024 event begins with Joseph Haydn string quartet movements followed by a compulsory work by renowned American composer Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson and closes with works from the Nationalist/Romantic and Modern Era. Each masterpiece will reveal the skill and level of preparation of these aspiring ensembles. It will also be a challenge for our esteemed jury as they search for today’s prizewinners.



Artaria String Quartet

The Saint Paul String Quartet Competition’s primary mission is to celebrate excellence in string quartet performance, foster increased awareness and participation in the chamber music art form, and enhance chamber music culture and appreciation. Diversity and Inclusion are now at the forefront of our concerns, and we have created required competition rounds for Women composers and Composers of Color.

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Sponsored by Karen & David Grandstrand

3rd Prize - \$1000 Bronze Medal Award
Sponsored by the James & Perry Leger Family

BIPOC Prize - \$800
Sponsored by Artaria String Quartet

Joseph Haydn Prize - \$800
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Chamber Orchestra • Performances Opportunities • Career Development

Auditions for the 2024-2025 season now open!
May 28 - 29 | August 12 - 14, or by appointment.

Contact: Sue Polutnik, Executive Director of the Academy
spolutnik@musicinst.org | 847.448.8311



musicinst.org/academy



MYAC is thankful for many years of cooperation and the opportunities the Saint Paul Chamber Music Competition provides for young musicians to grow & work together.



Lucien String Quartet
Landon Kim,
Vishal Subramanian, violins
Kay Ito, viola
Jocelyn Gao, cello



Vario Quartet
Momo Fredrickson,
Kai Werlinsky, violins
Akshay Nair, viola
Mira Pietrzekiewicz, cello



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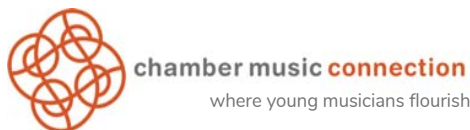
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HAYDN ROUND

11:00am Welcome from Master of Ceremonies

▼ ELYSIAN QUARTET ▼

Quartet in G minor, Op. 20, No. 3, IV. Finale: Allegro di molto

▼ LUMEN STRING QUARTET ▼

Quartet in G major Op. 77 No. 1, I. Allegro moderato

▼ LUCIEN QUARTET ▼

Quartet in D major, Op. 76, No. 5, II. Largo. Cantabile e mesto

▼ QUARTET MERAVIGLIA ▼

Quartet in C major, Op. 76, No. 3 "Emperor", IV. Finale: Prest

▼ VARIO QUARTET ▼

Quartet in D minor "Quinten", Op. 76, No. 2, I. Allegro

▼ AMBER STRING QUARTET ▼

Quartet in D minor "Quinten", Op. 76, No. 2, I. Allegro

▼ ADEL STRING QUARTET ▼

Quartet in C Major, Op. 33 No. 3, IV. Finale: Rondo

Winner of the Haydn Round will be announced at the Awards Ceremony which follows immediately after the Final Round.

Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson (June 14, 1932, Manhattan, New York City or possibly (unconfirmed) Winston-Salem, North Carolina – March 9, 2004, Chicago) was an American composer whose interests spanned the worlds of jazz, dance, pop, film, television, and classical music. Professionally he was often known as “Coleridge Perkinson”.

Perkinson was African American and was named after the black British composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875–1912). Perkinson’s mother was active in music and the arts as a piano teacher, church organist, and director of a theater company.

Perkinson attended the High School of Music and Art in New York City and New York University. He later transferred to the Manhattan School of Music, where he studied composition with Vittorio Giannini and Charles Mills. He received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Manhattan School of Music.[3] He also studied with Earl Kim at Princeton University. He was on the faculty of Brooklyn College (1959–1962) and studied conducting in the summers of 1960, 1962, and 1963 in the Netherlands with Franco Ferrara and Dean Dixon and also learned conducting in 1960 at the Mozarteum in Salzburg.

Perkinson co-founded the Symphony of the New World in New York in 1965 and later became its music director. He was also music director of Jerome Robbins’s American Theater Lab and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Perkinson composed a ballet for Ailey titled *For Bird, With Love*, inspired by the music of Charlie Parker.

Perkinson wrote a great deal of classical music, but was equally well-versed in jazz and popular music. He served briefly as pianist for drummer Max Roach’s quartet and wrote



arrangements for Roach, Marvin Gaye, and Harry Belafonte. He also composed music for films such as *The McMasters* (1970), *Together for Days* (1972), *A Warm December* (1973), *Thomasine & Bushrod* (1974), *The Education of Sonny Carson* (1974), *Amazing Grace* (1974), *Mean Johnny Barrows* (1976), and the documentary *Montgomery to Memphis* (1970) about Martin Luther King Jr. In 1970 he wrote incidental music for at least one episode of the US television show *Room 222*.

Perkinson’s music has a blend of Baroque counterpoint; American Romanticism; elements of the blues, spirituals, and black folk music; and rhythmic ingenuity.

BIPOC ROUND

12:15pm Introduction by Master of Ceremonies

Performances by:

▼ ELYSIAN QUARTET ▼

▼ LUMEN STRING QUARTET ▼

▼ LUCIEN QUARTET ▼

▼ QUARTET MERAVIGLIA ▼

▼ VARIO QUARTET ▼

▼ AMBER STRING QUARTET ▼

▼ ADEL STRING QUARTET ▼

String Quartet No.1 “Calvary” - I. Allegro Composer: Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson

Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson (1932-2004), named for the black Romantic-era composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, had wide-ranging musical interests. He composed classical works, but also worked as a jazz pianist and wrote film scores as well as pop arrangements for the likes of Marvin Gaye and Harry Belafonte. His classical concert music fuses Baroque sensibility and lyrical expression with elements of the blues, jazz, and spirituals in a strikingly contemporary sound. Perkinson wrote about his String Quartet No. 1 “Calvary” (1956):

“When I sat down to write this string quartet, I was not trying to write something Black, I was just writing out of my experience.”

He puts the traditional spiritual “Calvary” thru a jazzy prism in this energetic, effervescent work, showcasing his substantive and masterful string writing throughout.

Winner of the BIPOC Round will be announced at the Awards Ceremony which follows immediately after the Final Round.



FINAL ROUND PROGRAM

2:00pm Welcome from Master of Ceremonies

2:00pm ELYSIAN QUARTET ▶▶▶▶

GRIEG: Quartet in G minor, Op.27, IV. Finale: Lento-Presto al Saltarello
PROKOFIEV: Quartet No.1 in B minor, Op.50, I. Allegro

◀◀◀◀ LUMEN STRING QUARTET 2:18pm

MENDELSSOHN: Quartet No.2, Op.13, I. Adagio - Allegro vivace
SHOSTAKOVICH: Quartet No.3, Op.73, III. Allegro non troppo

2:35pm LUCIEN QUARTET ▶▶▶▶

MENDELSSOHN: Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 13, I. Adagio - Allegro vivace
SHOSTAKOVICH: Quartet No.3, Op.73, III. Allegro non troppo

◀◀◀◀ QUARTET MERAVIGLIA 2:50pm

PUCCINI: *Crisantemi*
GINASTERA: Quartet No. 1, Op.20, I. Allegro violento ed agitato

PAUSE (5 mins)

3:05pm VARIO QUARTET ▶▶▶▶

DEBUSSY: Quartet in G minor, Op.10, I. Animé et très décidé
GINASTERA: Quartet No.1, Op.20, IV. Allegramente rustico

◀◀◀◀ AMBER STRING QUARTET 3:20pm

TCHAIKOVSKY: Quartet No.1, II. Andante cantabile
SHOSTAKOVICH: Quartet No.3, Op.73, III. Allegro non troppo

3:32pm ADEL STRING QUARTET ▶▶▶▶

DVORÁK: Quartet in F "American", IV Finale: vivace ma non troppo
GINASTERA: Quartet No.1, Op.20 I. Allegro violento ed agitato

Jury selects Final Round Prizewinners AND audience Prize votes tallied
All Awards Presented



ELYSIAN QUARTET



Nolan Chang, violin (Chicago, IL)
Kai Isoke Ali-Landing, violin (Melbourne, FL)
Vivian Isabella Van de Sype Cucu, viola (Milwaukee, WI)
Katarina Kenney, cello (Madison, WI)

The Elysian Quartet is comprised of violinists Nolan Chang and Kai Isoke Ali-Landing, violist Vivian Van de Sype-Cucu, and cellist Katarina Kenney. The quartet is coached by faculty member Claudia Lasareff-Mironoff. “Elysian” is a Greek word that symbolizes beauty, creativity, and divine inspiration. They chose this name with the hope of portraying the celestial and transcendent qualities this name represents in their performances.

Competition Repertoire:

HAYDN: Quartet in G minor, Op. 20, No. 3, IV. Finale: Allegro di molto
GRIEG: Quartet in G minor, Op.27, IV. Finale: Lento-Presto al Saltarello
PROKOFIEV: Quartet No.1 in B minor, Op.50, I. Allegro

Violinist **Nolan Chang** is a Scholarship Fellow of the Academy at the Music Institute of Chicago, a training center for advanced pre-college musicians. Nolan studies the violin with Almita Vamos. He has performed in masterclasses for James Ehnes, Paul Huang, Danielle Belen, Fabiola Kim, Jessie Montgomery, Ben Sayevich, and Margaret Batjer. Nolan was the first place winner in the middle division of the 2018 John Child Walker Competition, a first and second prize winner in multiple categories of the 2018 Southwestern Youth Music Festival, and a third place winner in multiple categories of the 2019 Southwestern Youth Music Festival. Nolan was selected to play in the Southern California Junior Bach Festival Complete Works Audition from their regional festival in 2019. Kai Isoke Ali-Landing is a Scholarship Fellow at the Music Institute of Chicago’s Academy, a training center for advanced pre-college musicians.

Violinist **Kai Isoke** competes in local, regional, and national competitions. She was the Primary 1st place winner of the Sejong Competition in 2017. In 2018, she won first place in the Society of American Musicians and an honorable mention in the 33rd Music Festival in Honor Of Confucius. Most recently, in 2023, Kai Isoke was awarded Honorable Mention in the DePaul Concerto Festival. Kai Isoke has performed in masterclasses with Hilary Hahn, Ida Kavafian, I-Hao-Lee, Rachel Barton Pine, and Almita Vamos.

Violist **Vivian Van de Sype-Cucu** is a Scholarship Fellow at the Music Institute of Chicago’s Academy, a training center for advanced pre-college musicians. Vivian studies viola with Davis King. She participated in the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO) for 7 years, serving as the principal violist in the Senior Symphony for 3 years. She made her solo debut with the MYSO at age 11 as a 2019 Concerto Competition Winner. Vivian has received top honors at Wisconsin School Music Associations’ (WSMA) Solo and Ensemble festivals each year since 2019. Vivian has received the Janet Ruggieri Memorial Viola Scholarship for the past 4 years. Additionally, she has taken Master Classes with Paul Neubauer, Daniel Phillips, Milan Milisavljević, Eric Nowlin, and James Thompson.

Cellist **Katarina Kenney** is a Scholarship Fellow at the Music Institute of Chicago’s Academy. She currently studies cello with Cornelia Watkins. Katarina made her solo orchestral debut in a side by side performance with the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra and the WYSO Philharmonia Orchestra. She was the winner of the 2022 Madison Symphony Fall Youth Competition, second prize junior division winner of the 2022 Center Stage Strings Young Artist Solo Competition, 2022 and 2023 winner of the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra Competitions, silver medal winner, and the BIPOC/Female Composer prizewinner in the 2023 Saint Paul String Quartet Competition, and received honorable mention in the 2023 Chicago National Chamber Music Competition. Katarina has been featured on Wisconsin Public Radio’s Middy Show with host Norman Gilliland and has performed in masterclasses for Uri Vardi, Estelle Choi, Horacio Contreras, Yumi Kendall, Amy Barston, Avi Friedlander and Linc Smelser. She has spent her summers at the University of Michigan’s Center Stage Strings and Cincinnati Young Artists Virtual Cello Academy. In addition, she is in her seventh season with the Madison Youth Choirs and enjoys participating in Model UN, the Social Activism and Awareness Club, and community outreach.

LUMEN STRING QUARTET



Sotto Lai, violin (Columbus, OH)
Jonah Davis, violin (Columbus, OH)
Hyunyoung Lee, viola (Dublin, OH)
Josiah Tugaoen, cello (Westerville, OH)

The Lumen String Quartet formed at the Chamber Music Connection (CMC) in April 2022. The Quartet chose Lumen as its name because it defines a source that radiates to an equal extent in all directions. Members of Lumen include violinists Sotto Lai and Jonah Davis, violist Hyunyoung Bella Lee, and cellist Josiah Tugaoen. Lumen has performed in masterclasses for Peter Salaff, Mari Sato, Jeffrey Irvine, Luis Bellorin, Eric Wong, and members of the Brentano, Calidore, Callisto, Carpe Diem, Cavani, Isidore, KASA and Meta4 Quartets, The Lumen's coach with a team of CMC-associated faculty members under the direction of Artistic Director, Deborah Price. Their private instructors include Juan Ortega, Paula Korak, Deborah Price, and Pei-An Chao, respectively. When not rehearsing or performing, the Lumen's enjoy going to concerts together and sampling Bubble Tea.

Competition Repertoire:

HAYDN: Quartet in G major, Op. 77 No. 1, I. Allegro moderato
MENDELSSOHN: Quartet No. 2, Op.13, I. Adagio - Allegro vivace
SHOSTAKOVICH: Quartet No.3, Op.73, III. Allegro non troppo

Jonah Davis, violin, is an 8th grader attending Bexley Middle School in Columbus, Ohio. He started the violin at age four through the Suzuki Program of Columbus, and currently studies under the tutelage of Paula Korak. Jonah was introduced to chamber music while participating in the Chamber Music Connection, under the mentorship of Artistic Director Debbie Price. As a soloist, Jonah received an honorable mention in the 2024 Columbus Symphony Concerto Competition. Jonah has played with the Lumen String Quartet since its founding in the spring of 2022. Outside of violin, Jonah enjoys playing tennis, running, hiking, spending time outside, and being with friends and family.

Sotto Lai, violin, is a sophomore at Metro Early College High School. He discovered his passion for the violin eight years ago under the mentorship of Dr. Juan Ortega. Sotto was introduced to chamber music by his older sister who encouraged him to join the Chamber Music Connection under the direction of Deborah Price. He auditioned and was accepted into their esteemed Fellowship Program. As a founding member of the Lumen String Quartet in 2022, he and the ensemble continue to hone their craft through participation in masterclasses and competitions. Alongside his musical pursuits, Sotto has been a dedicated member of the Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra program for over five years, and has showcased his talent in both the OMEA Regional and All-State orchestras. Beyond music, Sotto enjoys traveling, hiking, and sports, embracing a diverse range of interests outside the concert hall.

Hyunyoung "Bella" Lee is a violinist and violist who discovered her love for music at the age of nine with the First Choice Music Studio, where she began violin lessons. She later found a passion for playing the viola under the guidance of her current teacher, Mrs. Deborah Price. Bella is a part of several ensembles. She plays violin in the Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra and with her school orchestra at the Columbus Academy where she is a sophomore. She joined the Chamber Music Connection (CMC) program in 2020 and is a founding member of the Lumen String Quartet which was formed in 2022. Bella is also a CMC fellow holding the fellow position of Assistant to the Artistic Director. She has participated as a violist in the South-Central regional orchestra and in the Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall. For her solo achievements, Bella has received honorable mentions from the Columbus Symphony Concerto Competition, competed in the Ohio Viola Society's viola competition, and performed in masterclasses for Lembi Veskimets and Hannah Levinson at the Ohio Viola Society's annual OHH Viola Day. Outside of music, Bella enjoys reading, painting, and robotics.

Josiah Tugaoen, cello, is a homeschooled sophomore in high school and started the cello at age six receiving his foundation under the tutelage of Jane Van Voorhees. He was first introduced to chamber music in the fourth grade when he followed in his brothers' musical paths joining the Chamber Music Connection (CMC) based in Worthington, Ohio. He is currently a second-year fellowship student at CMC. He has performed in chamber music masterclasses for members of the Cavani, Brentano, Isidore, Carpe Diem, Abeo, Meta4, Calidore, Callisto, St. Lawrence, and Aizuri string quartets, as well as Peter Salaff, Mari Sato, Eric Wong, and Columbus Symphony concertmaster Joanna Frankel. He has also received solo masterclasses from Cora Kuyvenhoven, Wendy Morton, and Mary Davis of the UCelli Columbus Cello Quartet, and currently studies with Pei-An Chao. Josiah has performed with the Worthington Chorus, and plays regularly in his church services. He is a cellist in the New Albany Symphony Orchestra under the direction of music director Luis Biava, where he was privileged to play with world-renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman. When he is not playing music, Josiah enjoys playing tennis, skiing, lifting, and spending time with his family.

LUCIEN QUARTET



Landon Kim, violin (Hoffman Estates, IL)
Vishal Subramanian, violin (Buffalo Grove, IL)
Kay Eto, viola (Glenview, IL)
Jocelyn Gao, cello (Long Grove, IL)

Quartet Lucien is composed of violinists Landon Kim, Vishal Subramanian, violist Kay Ito, and cellist Jocelyn Gao. The name Lucien comes from the French word for light. Representative of brightness and radiance, the quartet aspires to incorporate these elements into their playing. The quartet was formed in August of 2023, however Kay and Jocelyn played in a string quartet together last year. All four students are a part of the chamber music program at the Midwest Young Artists Conservatory (MYAC), where they are coached by Mathias Tacke.

Competition Repertoire:

HAYDN: Quartet in D major, Op. 76, No. 5, II. Largo. Cantabile e mesto
MENDELSSOHN: Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 3, I. Adagio - Allegro vivace
SHOSTAKOVICH: Quartet No. 3, Op. 73, III. Allegro non troppo

Violinist **Landon Kim** is a talented 17-year-old violinist and currently attends Bartlett High School as an 11th grader. Under the guidance of renowned violin teachers Almita Vamos and Injoo Choi, Landon's dedication to the craft has yielded impressive results. He displayed his exceptional skills at the Great Composers Competition, the Sherer International Violin and Piano Competition, and the Vancouver International Music Competition, earning 1st, 3rd, and a Finalist spot respectively. Landon has been an avid member at the Midwest Young Artists Conservatory as a member of their chamber music and orchestra program for 5 years. Of those 5 years, he has received the Merit Scholarship for 3 years. He was the concertmaster in MYAC's Concert Orchestra and is currently the associate concertmaster in the Symphony Orchestra. In addition to violin, Landon has a passion for computer programming and engineering.

Violinist **Vishal Subramanian**, 17 years old, is a senior at Adlai E. Stevenson High School. He has played violin for 9 years, and has won prizes in the Stevenson Concerto Competition, Glass City Chamber Music competition, and has received honorable mentions in the Walgreens Concerto Competition. He has been a part of the Midwest Young Artists Conservatory (MYAC) for 3 years and is currently the assistant concertmaster of the Symphony Orchestra. Outside of classical music, Vishal also plays an Indian classical style of violin known as Carnatic music, and regularly accompanies dancers and vocalists around the Chicagoland area. Vishal currently studies with Desiree Ruhstrat and plans to continue his studies with her at the Bienen School of Music.

Violist **Kay Ito**, 18, is a senior from New Trier High School. She started on violin at the age of five with Aki Tanaka and continued with Stacia Spencer at the Northwestern Music Academy. Shortly after she was introduced to viola, she permanently switched instruments at the age of 14, and is planning on pursuing viola performance in college. She has been a part of the Midwest Young Artists Conservatory (MYAC) symphony orchestra and the chamber music program from 2021, and she has been the viola principal since then. Her quartet last year, formed at MYAC, has participated in national chamber competitions such as the St. Paul String Quartet Competition and the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. She has competed in the Walgreens National Concerto Competition for three years and she was the winner of the string division in 2022, and she was the overall winner for her division in 2023. She enrolled in the Meadowmount School of Music summer program in 2023, and she had the wonderful opportunity of working with Ayane Kozasa and Su Zhen and multiple fantastic fellow musicians. Outside of music, she is a black belt holder in shotokan karate, enjoys singing and taking pictures of nature. Kay currently studies with Rose Armbrust Griffin.

Cellist **Jocelyn Gao**, 16 years old, is a junior at Adlai E. Stevenson High School. She has been playing cello for 10 years. She has won prizes in the Walgreens Concerto Competition and Society of American Musicians competition. Her string quartet from last year also participated in national competitions such as the St. Paul String Quartet Competition and the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. She has attended Midwest Young Artists Conservatory for 5 years and is currently the principal of the cello section of the Symphony Orchestra. Outside of cello, Jocelyn enjoys playing piano and reading. Jocelyn currently studies cello with Hans Jensen.

QUARTET MERAVIGLIA



Elle Cho, violin (Parkridge, IL)
Lauren Kim, violin (Hoffman Estates, IL)
Emily Kim, viola (Arlington Heights, IL)
Lucy WU, cello (Milwaukee, WI)

Quartet Meraviglia is composed of violinists Lauren Kim, Elle Cho, and Emily Chen, and cellist Lucy Wu. All 4 students are Merit Scholarship fellows at the Music Institute of Chicago's Academy, a training center for advanced pre-college musicians. Quartet Meraviglia is the overall winner of the 2024 Chicago National Chamber Music Competition in the Open Division and received honorable mention at 2024 A. N. & Pearl G. Barnett Chamber Competition.

Competition Repertoire:

HAYDN: Quartet Op. 76, No. 3 "Emperor", IV. Finale: Presto
GINASTERA: Quartet No. 1, Op.20, I. Allegro violento ed agitato
PUCCINI: *Crisantemi* Andante Mesto

Violinist **Elle Cho** studies with Almita Vamos. She began her violin studies at the age of three. As the winner of the DePaul Concerto Competition, Elle made her solo debut with the Oistrakh Orchestra. She has been a prize winner at numerous competitions including the Virtuoso International Music Competition, Walgreens Concerto Competition, Sejong Cultural Society, Confucius Music Competition, and Granquist Geneva Competition. In addition to her achievements, Elle has taken part in masterclasses led by Rachel Barton Pine, Boris Garlitsky, Yair Kless, James Ehnes, Vadim Gluzman, and Ilya Kaler. She has also participated in numerous summer festivals such as Heifetz PEG International Music Institute, Encore Chamber Music Institute, Musica Mundi, Mozarteum Summer Masterclasses, and the Menton Summer Festival. A dedicated chamber musician, Elle was the youngest competitor at the 2019 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition as a member of her trio, Trio Tempest.

Violinist **Lauren Kim** studies with Almita Vamos and Injoo Choi. She is a former Stradivari Society recipient of a three-quarter-size violin by Giorgio Serafin, c. 1745. Lauren made her orchestral debut at the age of twelve with the Oistrakh Symphony and has performed with the Youth Symphony of DuPage in 2020. She has received first-place in numerous competitions. She was also a semifinalist at the 2023 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition.

Violinist (violist) **Emily Chen** studies with Almita Vamos and Injoo Choi. Making her first solo orchestral debut at the age of ten, Emily has performed with the Northeastern Illinois University Orchestra in 2019, and the DePaul Oistrakh Symphony in 2023. Emily has won top prizes from the Sejong and Confucius Competitions and is the Junior String Winner of the Walgreens National Concerto Competition, DePaul National Concerto Competition, and the Bronze Medalist of the Vancouver International Competition. In 2022, she was invited to compete in the International Spohr Competition in Germany. Emily has taken part in masterclasses with Frank Huang, Danielle Belen, David Taylor, and Nurit Pacht.

Cellist **Lucy Wu** studies with Stefan Kartman. She made her solo orchestral debut at age 10 with the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra. Since then, she has soloed with the Madison and Chippewa Valley Symphony Orchestra's. Lucy won the MYSO Concerto Competition, Chicago International Music Competition, and the Chippewa Valley Symphony Young Artist Competition. She was also a finalist of the Bolz Young Artist Competition, where she was featured on PBS Wisconsin and Wisconsin Public Radio, and the Schubert Club Competition, where she was recipient of the Anne French Burnham scholarship. Lucy was the youngest competitor and semifinalist at the 2023 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. She has had the honor of playing in masterclasses for Hans Jensen, Guy Johnston, Paul Katz, and Stephen Balderston.

VARIO QUARTET



Cordelia Momo Fredrickson, violin (Madison, WI)
Kai Werlinsky, violin (La Grange Park, IL)
Akshay Nair, viola (Long Grove IL)
Mira Pietrzekiewicz, (Lake Zurich, IL)

The Vario Quartet consists of cellist Mira Pietrzekiewicz, violist Akshay Nair and violinists Kai Werlinsky and Cordelia (Momo) Fredrickson. It was formed through Midwest Young Artist Conservatory's award winning chamber music program, an organization built to nurture students' love for music, and coached by Eastman School of Music Alumni and former professional chamber musician Jacob Murphy. The group was recently awarded an honorable mention in the Chicago Chamber Music Competition and was invited to the live rounds of the Rembrandt Chamber Musicians' Annual High School Chamber Music Competition.

The name of the group (Vario) was chosen by Violist Akshay Nair and means "Varied" in Italian. The players themselves are very diverse and well rounded. Cellist Mira Pietrzekiewicz not only plays cello, but also can be found playing bass clarinet and alto saxophone in her spare time. Violist Akshay Nair finds time when he is not playing the viola and studying to maintain a third degree black belt in Taekwondo. Violinist Kai Werlinsky enjoys his time listening to music, and rock climbs with his friends on the advanced team at his local gym, Vertical Endeavors. Finally, violinist Cordelia (Momo) Fredrickson loves to spend her time practicing but when she is not indulging in her practice, she enjoys spending her time with her family.

Competition Repertoire:

HAYDN: Quartet in D minor "Quinten", Op. 76, No. 2, I. Allegro
DEBUSSY: Quartet in G minor, Op.10, I. Animé et très décidé
GINASTERA: Quartet No. 1, Op.20, IV. Allegramente rustico

Cordelia Momo Fredrickson, 15, studies violin with world-renowned violinist and DePaul University professor Janet Sung. Momo is a Merit Scholarship Fellow at Midwest Young Artists Conservatory. Momo made her solo orchestral debut when she was 11 with the MYAC orchestra at Pick-Staiger Hall in Chicago IL. For her exceptional musical achievements, she was featured on the School Spotlight series on Wisconsin State Journal, and received a recognition award from the Madison Metropolitan School District Board of Education. Momo is a sophomore at Wisconsin Virtual Academy and is selected to become a member of National Honor Society. Momo is the top prize winner of numerous international competitions: MYAC Junior Division Overall Winner (2019, 2021) and String Category Winner of the Walgreens National Concerto Competition (2019, 2021), Society of American Musicians (2021), Vancouver International Music (2021), International Music Bonn Grand Prize Virtuoso (2021), International Music Salzburg Grand Prize Virtuoso (2021), Golden Classical Music Awards International (2021), Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Bach Double (2022). Other prizes include Philadelphia International Music Festival Concerto (2020), Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Wisconsin State (2021).

Kai Werlinsky has been studying violin since he was five years old and currently attends Lyons Township High School. As a soloist, Kai placed third in the Stanger Concerto Competition in 2024. He also received an honorable mention in the Walgreens Concerto Competition in 2023. For his high school concerto competition, he was a runner up in 2021 and the following year, was the winner. Kai has performed in masterclasses with Sibbi Bernhardsson, Bing Wong and Brian Lewis. He was principal second violin in CYSO accelerando strings in 2020-2021, and is now a member of Midwest Young Artists Conservatory where he participates in the Symphony Orchestra and the intensive chamber music program. For summer festivals, Kai has attended Interlochen Center for the Arts and Aria International Summer Academy. This summer, Kai will be attending Sounding Point Academy. Kai studies under Drew Lecher and in his free time, loves to rock climb competitively and is on the advanced team at his local gym, Vertical Endeavors. He also enjoys volunteer teaching at the Sunday school he grew up attending.

My name is **Akshay Nair** and I'm a senior at Adlai E. Stevenson High School and a violist with 8 years of experience. For 6 years, I've played with MYAC and am currently part of the symphony orchestra. Under my private teacher, Christine Due I have recently worked on David Gyula's Bracsaverseny and Walton's Viola Concerto. I'm also part of the school orchestra and my high school's Baroque Ensemble directed by Enrique Vilaseco. We've performed at prestigious events like the Boston Early Music Festival as the only high school group to ever be invited, and have auditioned for WFMT. Outside of music, I've practiced Taekwondo since age 4, earning a 3rd-degree black belt and competing nationally and internationally until my junior year. I've won state titles and competed in tournaments for sparring like the Pan American Cup and US Open. Now, I volunteer teaching Taekwondo, transitioning from sparring to board breaking. Regarding college, I am looking to major in Computer Science while continuing my musical pursuits.

Polish American cellist **Mira Pietrzekiewicz** is a young musician of the Chicago Suburbs and currently studies under both Dr. Hagel and internationally acclaimed Galvin Cello Quartet member and doctoral student of Hans Jensen, Sydney Lee. As she attains all principal positions at her high school's orchestra and sinfonietta, Mira recently acquired an Assistant principal position at 2024 District 7 ILMEA Orchestra and was chosen as an All State Honor Orchestra selectee. She earlier achieved an Assistant Principal position at Midwest Young Artist Conservatory Symphony Orchestra in which she has played at venues such as Northwestern, Ravinia and Symphony Center. At Midwest Young Artist, she is an avid chamber musician with both of her past groups achieving awards in both the Rembrandt Chamber Competition and the National Chicago Chamber Music Competition. As a high school student, she has been able to play with the professional Kankakee Symphony Orchestra in the spring. Mira has taken masterclasses with Mathias Tacke, Jacob Murphy and Desiree Ruhstrat. When she is not practicing cello, she can be caught playing her Alto Saxophone or Bass Clarinet or spending her time learning languages and spending time with her family.

AMBER STRING QUARTET



Danielle Tsai, violin (San Gabriel, CA)
Bai Xue, violin (Arcadia, CA)
Eliana Andrea, viola (South Pasadena, CA)
Paulina Salzar, cello (Los Angeles, CA)

Based in Pasadena, the Amber String Quartet is a musical collaboration between Danielle Tsai (violin), Bai Xue (violin), Eliana Andrea (viola), and Paulina Salazar (cello). Formed in Fall 2023 under the guidance of Ms. Aimée Kreston at the Pasadena Conservatory of Music, they have participated in masterclasses with Geneva Lewis and Gabriel Martins. The name “Amber” is inspired by the precious stone which represents balance, courage, and self-expression— qualities that we strive to emulate as we create music.

Competition Repertoire:

HAYDN: Quartet in D minor “Quinten”, Op. 76, No. 2, I. Allegro
TCHAIKOVSKY: Quartet No.1, II. Andante cantabile
SHOSTAKOVICH: Quartet No.3, Op.73, III. Allegro non troppo

Danielle Tsai, 18, began musical training when she was 5 years old and currently studies with Ms. Aimée Kreston at the Pasadena Conservatory of Music. Previously, she studied with Cheryl Scheidemantle and Gayaneh Kumar. Danielle is the assistant concertmaster of the Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestra Philharmonic and enjoys playing in the Amber String Quartet. As a soloist, she has won top honors at the American String Teachers Association, Music Teachers’ Association of California, Southern California Junior Bach Festival Complete Works, Rotary, VOCE, and Charleston International Competition. Aside from violin, Danielle enjoys reading, playing guitar, and running.

Bai Xue, 18, is a violin student studying with Aimee Kreston at the Pasadena Conservatory of Music. Having grown up in various countries, including China, Slovenia, Lithuania and the United States, Bai has also had many violin teachers: Yoshitaka Aoki, Volodja Bazalorsky, Ina Giaudeliene, Jodi Hagen. She has been a violinist in the Phillips Exeter Academy Chamber Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra, and is currently a member of the Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestra: Philharmonic. She also played viola during PEA’s Concert Choir and Chamber Orchestra Puerto Rico tour. Aside from violin, Bai also enjoys singing, musical theater, animating, and studying various mathematical topics.

Eliana Andrea, 17, is a viola student who started with violin at 7 years old. She currently studies with Mick Wertzelt of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and participates in Pasadena Conservatory’s Chamber Music Program, under head coach Aimee Kreston. Eliana was a violinist and violist of the Los Angeles Children’s Orchestra, and has also participated in Colburn Community Chamber Program. Along with that, Eliana has traveled to Carnegie Hall for orchestral competitions, as well as received first place through the American Strings Teachers Association as a violist, as well as a finalist for VOCE the past two years. Aside from viola, Eliana enjoys nature, learning about biological sciences, and volunteering.

Cellist **Paulina Salazar**, a native of Los Angeles, is currently a student of John Walz and Michael Kauffman and studies at The Pasadena Conservatory of Music. She also studies Chamber music at the Caltech Chamber Music Program under the direction of Maia Jasper and Martin Chalifour. Since 2019, Paulina has been an active member of the Sphinx Organization which promotes diversity in the Arts, and annually participates in their Performance Academy at The Juilliard School. Paulina began studying cello at four years old and joined her first string quartet a year later. Chamber Music has been her greatest joy ever since. In 2017, she served as principal cellist of the award-winning Los Angeles Children’s Orchestra (LACO) with which she has had incredible recording and performance experiences; She recorded the soundtrack for a Dreamworks short film that won the CinEuphoria Award, as well as recorded and appeared in Justin Bieber’s music video ‘Yummy’. As principal cellist of LACO she also performed in Carnegie Hall, Disney Concert Hall, The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, and two rounds of the TV show ‘America’s Got Talent’. She has won 1st prize in the ASTA, MTNA, CAPMTI, and DBPAC competitions. Paulina is currently a member of the Amber Quartet coached by Aimée Kreston.

ADEL STRING QUARTET



Lerchen Zhong, violin (Austin, TX)
Evelyn Liu, violin (Austin, TX)
Alexander Zhong, viola (Austin, TX)
Adriana Cheng, cello (Austin, TX)

Founded in 2020, the ADEL String Quartet came together as a group of close friends who attend Westwood High School in Austin, TX. ADEL are founding members of the local music organization, Project Melody, where they coordinate bringing ensembles and soloists into senior homes, hospitals and other public spaces, providing free concerts. ADEL members are leaders in their school symphony orchestra and have won positions in both region and all-state orchestras. They were recently featured on From the Top as members of the Westwood Orchestra program, and won best high school orchestra in the State of Texas under the direction of Joshua Thompson. In May of 2023, ADEL won first place for chamber music at the 10th Annual Young Musicians Festival in Austin, and were finalists in UIL chamber music competition 2024, first place in string & piano category. Coached by William Fedkenheuer and Leah Nelson, the ADEL quartet continues to evolve their group dynamic and personal strengths while creating more musical opportunities for the future.

Competition Repertoire:

HAYDN: Quartet in C Major, Op. 33 No. 3, Finale: Rondo
DVORAK: Quartet in F "American", IV Finale: vivace ma non troppo
GINASTERA: Quartet No. 1, Opus 20 I. Allegro violento ed agitato

Lerchen Zhong, a 15-year-old sophomore at Westwood High School in Austin, TX, is a virtuoso musician proficient in both violin and piano. Under the guidance of Mr. William Dick and Dr. Kiyoshi Tamagawa since 2019, Lerchen has honed his skills in both instruments. As a violinist, he won first place in his age group at the Kings Peak International Music Competition in 2021. He has been selected through audition to perform in premier high school ensembles such as the TMEA All-State Symphony Orchestra, serving as associate concertmaster in 2024 and principal second violinist in 2023. Additionally, he has been a dedicated member of both the Austin Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Westwood Symphony Orchestra since 2022. Lerchen's musical journey extends beyond orchestral performance; In 2023, he secured the Grand Prize at the Asian American Community Partnership Challenge Cup, winning 1st place in the Piano Division. Recently, Lerchen was honored as one of the fifteen 2024 Texas Commission on the Arts Young Masters. Outside of music, Lerchen is an accomplished athlete and enjoys running and games.

Evelyn Liu is a 16 year old violinist from Austin, Texas who studies with Molly Emerman. She placed third and second in Austin's Young Musicians' Festival in 2018 and 2023 respectively and placed third in the American Protégé Competition in 2022. She has attended summer camps at Meadowmount School of Music in 2021, Texas Strings Festival in 2022, and Heifetz Institute in 2023. She was in the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) All-State Symphonic Orchestra in 2023 and the All-State Philharmonic Orchestra in 2024. She has passion for chamber music, and also enjoys drawing, reading, and writing.

Alexander Zhong, 15, is a sophomore at Westwood High School in Austin, TX. He studies viola with Mr. William Dick and Ms. Leah Nelson. He loves playing in orchestras and chamber ensembles. He currently is assistant principal violist of Austin Youth Symphony Orchestras (AYSO) and a member of Chamber Program. He was selected as principal violist for Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) All-State Philharmonic Orchestra in 2024 and Region XXVI All-Region High School Symphony Orchestra in 2023. In his free time, Alex enjoys playing piano, playing basketball, and working out.

Adriana Cheng is a 15 year old sophomore at Westwood High School in Austin, Texas. She has been playing the cello for 8 years and currently studies under Hai Zheng-Olefsky. Adriana currently plays in the Westwood Symphony Orchestra and has been selected as the principal cellist in the 2023 TMEA Region 26 Symphony Orchestra. She has also made Texas All State Sinfonietta Orchestra for the past 2 years and has attended Texas Strings Festival over many summers, which started her love for chamber music. Adriana is the president and one of the founders of the nonprofit Project Melody. She also enjoys playing piano and violin in her free time. Other than music, she participates in competitive soccer and math competitions.

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