

Our Young Artists



Michael Hsu, age 19, began taking piano lessons when he was 6 and has studied with his current teacher, Dr. Thomas Otten since May 2018. Michael recently played with the Jewish Community Orchestra as a concerto competition winner. He was a prize winner in several OMTA competitions. These competitions include the Pettibone, Raines, and Underwood scholarship competitions. Michael was a prize winner of the yearly Monday Musical Club in 2023 and performed in state convention masterclasses held by OMTA in Bend and Eugene. Michael is currently a senior in high school and plans to continue to pursue music studies in college.



Sarah Lee, age 18, is a Senior at Westview High School from Portland, Oregon, studying with Hyun-Jin Kim. She serves as principal cellist of the Portland Youth Philharmonic and Camerata PYP. Her top solo achievements include first prizes for the National Federation of Music Clubs Mary Cox Award, New York International, State and Regional MTNA Senior String Performance Competition, OMEA State Solo and Chamber Ensemble Contest, and the Symphony Guild Young Artist Competition. She participated in the 2022 All-National Honors Ensembles Symphony Orchestra and All-Northwest Orchestra as principal. Sarah performed as a soloist in PYP's 100th anniversary season as the 2023 PYP Concerto Competition winner. She was also privileged to perform with members of the Oregon

Symphony by winning MetroArts' Young Artists Debut! Competition. Sarah attended renowned music camps such as the National Symphony Orchestra's Summer Music Institute, Boston University Tanglewood Institute, International Cello Institute, Vivace International Music Festival, and Philadelphia International Music Camp & Festival. Sarah wants to use her love of music to benefit and heal communities that have yet to experience its joys. She volunteers at Project Prelude and Music4Harmony, serving underprivileged communities through teaching & performance. Besides cello, Sarah enjoys piano, soccer, skiing, reading, and hanging out with friends.



Leo Trajano, age 17, is a violinist from Hillsboro, Oregon. He started playing piano at age 5 and violin at age 8. After studying with Kevin Lefohn for the past seven years, Leo is continuing his violin journey under Jessica Lee. His first violin teacher, Kathy Bolton, was a member of the Beaverton Symphony Orchestra. Leo is the assistant principal second violinist of the Portland Youth Philharmonic and a member of Camerata PYP. As a winner of concerto competitions, he has been awarded solo performances with Oregon Mozart Players, the Amadeus Chamber Orchestra, the Willamette Falls Symphony, and the Metropolitan Youth Symphony. He was the winner of the 2024-2025 Oregon MTNA Senior Strings Competition, and he has been the recipient of a Monday Musical Club of Portland Music Award. This summer, as a

member of NYO-USA (National Youth Orchestra), Leo will be performing at Carnegie Hall and at six major concert halls across East Asia. In past summers, he has participated in NY02, Bowdoin International Music Festival, and Madeline Island Chamber Music for Strings. Besides playing violin, Leo enjoys singing in his school choir, playing piano, hanging out with friends, and spending time with his family, especially when it involves food or travel.