



May 2024

# Newsletter

William Pu Music Academy

## Wishing for a Bright Future

### Graduating Seniors

#### Violin

Didi Stone - *Columbus State University*  
Victoria Jeon - *University of Georgia*  
Ronak Das - *University of Georgia*  
Aaron Wang - *Georgia Institute of Technology*

#### Viola

Jordan Zheng - *Parsons School of Design*  
Will Weaver - *St. Olaf College*

#### Cello

Joshua Kim - *Emory University*  
Yeseo Han - *Rice University*  
Ethan Hayes - *Brigham Young University*  
Joshua Nguyen - *University of Georgia*  
David Kwack - *Georgia Institute of Technology*  
Eric Xu - *Brown University*  
Kristen Song - *University of Georgia*  
Alex Ko - *University of Georgia*





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Didi Stone- 12th Grade (Violin)  
Student of William Pu

Columbus State University

2023- 2024 Music Achievement

- Governor's Honors Program 59 (2023)
- Concertmaster of Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra 2023-2024
- Concertmaster of Emory Youth Symphony Orchestra 2023-2024
- Concertmaster of Alpharetta High School Symphony Orchestra
- Assistant Concert Master of GMEA All-State Orchestra 2023, 2024
- MTNA 2023 – Honorable Mention (Strings)
- GMTA 2023 – 1st Alternate (Strings), Award of Excellence (Instrumental Concerto)
- Samuel Fordis Concerto Competition 2024 – Honorable Mention
- Emory Youth Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition 2024 - Winner
- National Youth Orchestra (NYO-USA) 2024
- Coltman National Chamber Music Competition 2024 – Semifinalist
- Panama City Symphony Emerging Artists Competition 2024 - Finalist



Charlotte Jeong- 8th Grade (Violin)  
Student of William Pu

New England Conservatory Pre-College

2023- 2024 Music Achievement

- GMTA instrumental concerto competition winner 2023
- MTNA Junior string division Alternate winner 2023
- Concertmaster GMEA All-State Orchestra 2023, 2024
- Samuel Fordis Young Artists Concerto Competition winner 2021 and 2023
- Debut as a soloist with Georgia Philharmonic in 2023
- An honoree of Fine Arts Category of 9th international YOU award & performance aired WATL on 3/16/2024
- Soloist with Ludwig Symphony Orchestra on April, 2024
- 48th Ruth Kern Young Artist Concerto Competition winner, performed with Atlanta Community Symphony Orchestra in May 2024
- Selected to compete at the Andrea Postacchini International Violin Competition in Fermo, Italy, in May 2024



Jordan Zheng- 12th Grade (Viola)  
Student of Amy Chang

Parsons School of Design

2023- 2024 Music Achievement

- Governor's Honors Program 60 (2024)
- Emory Youth Symphony Orchestra Principal viola
- Assistant Principal Viola of GMEA All-State Orchestra 2024
- Viola Concerto Performance with Northview High School Orchestra



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## Outstanding WPMA Student



Oliver Arthur - Cello  
Student of Meng Dai

Olivia, a fourth-grade student at Holy Innocents' Episcopal School, has excelled in cello since July 2023 under Meng Dai's guidance. In the recent 2024 GMEA Solo-Ensemble Performance Evaluation on April 27, 2024, Olivia earned top honors with "Superior" ratings for both her solo and duet performances.



Ellie Kim - Violin  
Student of William Pu

Ellie, an 8th-grade student was the Concertmaster of Gwinnett County Youth Symphony and the Winner of the 2024 GCYS Concerto Competition

## Remarkable Achievers from the WPMA Community



Norah Riley  
Student of Dr. Sungha Kim

Norah Reilly, a student of Dr. Sunha Kim and as part of a chamber group at WPMA, achieved remarkable success. She was honored by the European Autumn Music Competition with the Platinum Prize and Overall Best Score in her age group for her violin performance. Additionally, in 2023, Norah received the European Music Awards Grand Prix: Junior Category Violinist of the Year and was named Annual Grand Champion.



Jooyoung Kim  
Student of Dr. Sunghun Kim

Jooyoung Kim, a piano student of Dr. Sunghun Kim, won the Absolute First Prize and Exceptional Technique Special Prize at the 2024 Vivaldi International Music Competition.

## Franklin Pond CHAMBER MUSIC



## Congratulations to the nine WPMA students whose chamber group has advanced to the finals of the Franklin Pond Chamber Music Competition!

Sunday, May 26, 2024  
Spivey Hall  
Competition: 12:00 PM  
Awards Concert: 4:00 PM

### Cypress Trio (High School)

Hailey Culp, piano  
**Didi Stone, violin**  
Seunghoon (Ryan) Pi, cello

### Dolce Vita String Quartet (Middle School)

**Ellie Kim, violin**  
**Elsye Santoso, violin**  
**Olivia Scott, viola**  
**Joshua Park, cello**

### Felis Quartet (High School)

Olivia Wei, violin  
**Leonardo Castro-Balbi, violin**  
Alex Wang, viola  
Eric Jiang, cello

### Clark Quartet (High School)

Melvin Xu, piano  
**Abigail Kim, violin**  
**Jordan Zheng, viola**  
Joyce Lu, cello

### Nova Trio (High School)

Katie Yang, piano  
Lela Stair, violin  
**Chase Choi, cello**