

PRIZE WINNERS FOR VIOLIN CATEGORIESJunior Category (aged 12 and below)*First Prize***Dylan Wee Hong Xuan (黄宏轩), 9**

Dylan started learning the violin at the age of three, and is currently a member of The Joyful Strings, a string ensemble of young talented violinists. He has made numerous group and solo performances, both locally and overseas. He was a soloist at the 2008 National Arts Council Arts Awards Presentation Ceremony playing at the Istana and the Student Honour's Recital at the Intermountain Suzuki String Institute's String Camp, USA (2007).

He was the youngest finalist and third prize winner in the Junior Classical Strings category, Trinity College London Music Competition (2006). He also received the 1st prize in the Strings Division (seven to eight years old category) and an Overall Best Performer Bronze Award at the 6th Asian Youth Music Competition (2007). He recently won the 1st prize in the intermediate category of the Young Violinist Competition 2009, organised by DynamicWorkz. Dylan enjoys playing and performing with the violin. He hopes to continue growing in his music playing and looks forward to more opportunities to share his music.

*Second Prize***Chan Fay Ching Casey (陈飞澄), 12**

Casey started learning the violin before the age of five. He was a student of the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts from 2005 to 2008. In February 2009, he was admitted to the Young Artist Program at the Yong Siew Tong Conservatory and accepted into Ms Qian Zhou's teaching studio. Casey was a member of the Nanyang Primary School String Ensemble and was the concertmaster when the school won gold with honours in SYF 2008.

*Third Prize***Tsai Qi Yun Shalynn (蔡绮耘), 9**

Shalynn has performed at APEC 2009, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts' Young Violinist Concert 2009, Nanyang Glitters, and Nanyang Cantabile (both organised by Nanyang Primary School in 2009). Her music teacher is Miss Wu Man Yun. Shalynn is currently a member of Nanyang Primary School String Ensemble and she has been the Concert Master from 2008 since the age of eight.

Intermediate Category (aged 15 and below)*First Prize***Kong Xian Long (孔宪隆), 13**

Kong Xian Long started learning violin at the young age of four under his grandfather, Kong Guangtian and his father, Kong Zhaohui. Xianlong has a very solid musical foundation through many years of diligent practice and professional training. He has been accepted into The Young Artist Programme at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory under Professor Qian Zhou. Xianlong has performed in many schools and public concerts, as well as recitals in China since 2004. In 2008, he achieved the LTCL (Licentiate of Trinity College London) Diploma of level six (Recital in Violin with Distinction). He won the second prize in the Junior Category in the 2007 National Piano & Violin Competition.

Second Prize

Lee Ryce (李可恩), 15

Ryce began her formal music education at the Nayang Academy of Fine Arts, School of Young Talents. In February, she made her orchestral debut with the National University of Singapore Symphony Orchestra as part of the fourth NUS Arts Festival. Recently, she was invited by the Jakarta Arts Council to perform on the 1680 "Ex-Paganini" Stradivarius from the Rin Collection at the Exhibition of Violin Masterpieces in Jakarta. Currently under the Artistically Gifted Programme at the School of the Arts, Ryce plays the first violin in a quartet under the guidance of Leslie Tan and is also a first violinist in the Singapore National Youth Orchestra.

Third Prize

Evan Chia En Yao (谢恩耀), 15

After winning second prize in the advanced violin category of the Trinity Guildhall Music Competition, Evan performed at the Young Artist Concert in 2008. More recently, he won first prize and the Distinction Award in the open category of the Young Violinist Competition 2009, organised by DynamicWorkz.

Senior Category (aged 18 and below)

Second Prize

Tang Kam Yin Selina (邓银燕), 15

England-born and now a Singapore PR, Selina is currently studying at Raffles Girls' School, and is a student of Professor Alexander Souptel, concert master of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. She was a finalist on a TV talent contest, Britain's Brilliant Prodigies, in 2002, and is a three-time 1st prize winner for both piano & violin in the North London Music Festival (2000, 2001 and 2003). She has performed at numerous private functions for companies such as Citibank, and also performed at the ChildAid in 2006 and 2008. Her favourite composer is Mozart, and she enjoys reading, singing, swimming and playing netball.

Third Prize (tie)

Gabriel Lim Jen-Wei (林健暉), 16

Gabriel is currently studying under Professor Zuo Jun in the Young Artist Programme in Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music. A member of the Orchestra of the Music Makers, he has performed in many concerts in Singapore and in other countries such as the UK, US, Indonesia & Laos. He won the third prize in the Junior category of the 2003 National

Piano & Violin Competition and second prize in the Intermediate category of the same competition in 2005.

Third Prize (tie)

Choon Hong Yi (曾泓育), 13

Hong Yi is a student of Professor Alexander Souptel, concert master of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. He has been playing the violin since he was five and has performed both locally and overseas. He was previously the concert master of the Singapore National Youth Sinfonia and is currently a first violinist of the Raffles Institution String Ensemble. Hong Yi is also a student of the Young Artist Programme at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory.

Artist Category (aged 25 and below)

First Prize

Zhao Meng Chan, 22

Mengchan started to play the violin when he was three years old. At the age of seven, he performed on stage with internationally-renowned virtuoso Xue-Wei. He was appointed concertmaster for the China National Youth Orchestra and had the opportunity to perform with world-class cellist Wang Jian. He has performed in masterclasses conducted by Keng Yuen Tseng and Malcolm Layfield. A second-year student of Qian Zhou, Mengchan plays on a 1818 Pallotta Pietro on loan from the Rin Collection.

Second Prize

Du Shuaili (杜帅黎), 20

Du Shuaili was born in 1989 in Xi'an of China. She began to play the violin at the age of five and has since given many performances and won many prizes in various music competitions. Shuaili was also the Violin Principal of the Youth Symphony Orchestra of the Xi'an Conservatory of Music. After graduating from her studies in Xi'an, Shuaili continued to further her training in the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, under Professor Qian Zhou. She is currently playing on a 1849 Francesco on loan from Mr and Mrs Rin Kei Mei.

Third Prize

Toh Wan Ni Wendy (卓琬倪), 21

Toh Wan Ni Wendy started studying the violin at the age of four. She has since studied with Fan Ho Tang and Kong Zhao Hui. She is a finalist in the Eastman School's Sibelius Violin Concerto Competition. She also participated in a masterclass with Yehonatan Berick this year. In addition, she is an active member of the Eastman Philharmonia. She is currently studying with Professor Oleh Krysa at the Eastman School of Music.